

### Optional Comment Form

Following are comments I wish to make concerning the proposed discontinuance of the WOODGATE Post Office.

1. **Effect on Your Postal Services.** Describe any favorable or unfavorable effects you believe the proposal would have on the regularity or effectiveness of your postal services.

We spend our summer vacation at White Lake and greatly depend on the Woodgate P.O.

2. **Effect on Your Community.** Please describe any favorable or unfavorable effects that you believe the proposal would have on your community.

It's like the corner store - when it and the P.O. are gone, the community loses its identity. And it's a great inconvenience to elderly people.

3. **Other Comments.** Please provide any other views or information that you believe the Postal Service should consider in deciding whether to adopt the proposal.

I don't see where you save money closing down small P.O.'s, what with all the extra trucking.

Frank Bergmann, Ph.D.

Name of Postal Customer



Signature of Postal Customer

101 Sedgewick Park

Mailing Address

New Hartford

NY

13413

City, State, and ZIP Code

7-20-11

Date

### Optional Comment Form

Following are comments I wish to make concerning the proposed discontinuance of the WOODGATE Post Office.

1. **Effect on Your Postal Services.** Describe any favorable or unfavorable effects you believe the proposal would have on the regularity or effectiveness of your postal services.

I recieve all my income checks by mail and it would cause me much problems have everything changed, also I'm total disable, and no car able to get any where else. I have to have people in family or neighbors to get my mail. We are soley in need for our post office to remain here.

2. **Effect on Your Community.** Please describe any favorable or unfavorable effects that you believe the proposal would have on your community.

It would effects hard on shut ins, unable to go any distance to get mail. Also with the cost of gas, many wouldn't beable to afford the cost of fuel to travel further to get it.

3. **Other Comments.** Please provide any other views or information that you believe the Postal Service should consider in deciding whether to adopt the proposal.

Joseph T. Hill

Name of Postal Customer

Joseph T. Hill

Signature of Postal Customer

P.O. Box 128

Mailing Address

Woodgate, N.Y. 13494

City, State, and ZIP Code

6-29-11

Date

## Optional Comment Form

Following are comments I wish to make concerning the proposed discontinuance of the WOODGATE Post Office.

1. **Effect on Your Postal Services.** Describe any favorable or unfavorable effects you believe the proposal would have on the regularity or effectiveness of your postal services.

It would cause hardship for people who work for the government, We are already having to deal with problems being able to live. Also I have to get mail for my father who's disable. Why hurt these people any more.

2. **Effect on Your Community.** Please describe any favorable or unfavorable effects that you believe the proposal would have on your community.

3. **Other Comments.** Please provide any other views or information that you believe the Postal Service should consider in deciding whether to adopt the proposal.

You hurt the people of the area as well as us who have to take care of someone in area.

(Daughter) of Joseph T. Hill I can't afford cost of 945 going further.

Madeline Kravec

Name of Postal Customer

Madeline L. Kravec

Signature of Postal Customer

P.O. Box 269

Mailing Address

Clayville, N.Y. 13320

City, State, and ZIP Code

Date

Stop having government worry about overseas.  
An worry about their own in the USA

from Mail Person from Camp Turk

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1. **Effect on Your Postal Services.** Describe any favorable or unfavorable effects you believe the proposal would have on the regularity or effectiveness of your postal services.

2. **Effect on Your Community.** Please describe any favorable or unfavorable effects that you believe the proposal would have on your community.

3. **Other Comments.** Please provide any other views or information that you believe the Postal Service should consider in deciding whether to adopt the proposal.

THIS POST OFFICE IS VERY  
IMPORTANT TO MANY CAMPERS  
WHO'S KIDS STAY HERE FOR THE  
SUMMER, AND IT COSTS FOR MANY  
CAMPER'S TO GET MAIL I WILL COST MORE  
MONEY FOR

Name of Postal Customer

Signature of Postal Customer

Mailing Address

City, State, and ZIP Code

Date

DRIVER OF CAMP TURK  
Richard A. Belsky  
US ~~LET~~ IF THE POST OFFICE  
GIVE GAS CARDS TO THE PEOPLE FOR  
DRIVE THE CAR DRIVING POSTER AWAY

7/20/11

### Optional Comment Form

Following are comments I wish to make concerning the proposed discontinuance of the WOODGATE Post Office.

1. **Effect on Your Postal Services.** Describe any favorable or unfavorable effects you believe the proposal would have on the regularity or effectiveness of your postal services.

unfavorable - as living out in rural area - working it makes it diff. to get mail other places than woodgate.

2. **Effect on Your Community.** Please describe any favorable or unfavorable effects that you believe the proposal would have on your community.

affecting our fire CO.  
This is awful - as we need this service -

3. **Other Comments.** Please provide any other views or information that you believe the Postal Service should consider in deciding whether to adopt the proposal.

it will cost the postal service more in the end than have as many years

Name of Postal Customer

Signature of Postal Customer

Mailing Address

City, State, and ZIP Code

Date

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### Optional Comment Form

Following are comments I wish to make concerning the proposed discontinuance of the WOODGATE Post Office.

1. **Effect on Your Postal Services.** Describe any favorable or unfavorable effects you believe the proposal would have on the regularity or effectiveness of your postal services.

We enjoy picking up our mail at the Woodgate Post office on our way to White Lake everyday to stay with my elderly parents. We mail packages, mail and purchase stamps here.

2. **Effect on Your Community.** Please describe any favorable or unfavorable effects that you believe the proposal would have on your community.

People in this community can't travel (high gas prices) to other towns to get Postal service.

3. **Other Comments.** Please provide any other views or information that you believe the Postal Service should consider in deciding whether to adopt the proposal.

Please consider the elderly people who can't travel far to get their mail. Many people use this P. Office in the summer.

Juan Jernigan

Name of Postal Customer

Judy Jernigan

Signature of Postal Customer

General Delivery

Mailing Address

Woodgate N.Y 13494

City, State, and ZIP Code

6-24-11

Date

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### Optional Comment Form

Following are comments I wish to make concerning the proposed discontinuance of the WOODGATE Post Office.

1. **Effect on Your Postal Services.** Describe any favorable or unfavorable effects you believe the proposal would have on the regularity or effectiveness of your postal services.

I enjoy the convenience of getting my mail while vacationing in Woodgate NY during the Summers!

2. **Effect on Your Community.** Please describe any favorable or unfavorable effects that you believe the proposal would have on your community.

The unfavorable effect is that I would have to travel to get my mail; and it would create more travel time.

3. **Other Comments.** Please provide any other views or information that you believe the Postal Service should consider in deciding whether to adopt the proposal.

Please consider the residents of Woodgate who have lived in the Woodgate area for a long time and who have used the Woodgate Post Office.

Donald Jernigan

Name of Postal Customer

Signature of Postal Customer

General Delivery

Mailing Address

Woodgate NY 13494

City, State, and ZIP Code

6-24-11

Date

### Optional Comment Form

Following are comments I wish to make concerning the proposed discontinuance of the WOODGATE Post Office.

1. **Effect on Your Postal Services.** Describe any favorable or unfavorable effects you believe the proposal would have on the regularity or effectiveness of your postal services.

*I stop at Woodgate Post-office for stamps, and other services. I also pick up my elderly parents mail for them.*

2. **Effect on Your Community.** Please describe any favorable or unfavorable effects that you believe the proposal would have on your community.

3. **Other Comments.** Please provide any other views or information that you believe the Postal Service should consider in deciding whether to adopt the proposal.

*John Pfeiffer*  
Name of Postal Customer

*John Pfeiffer*  
Signature of Postal Customer

*9473 Haverinsville Rd*  
Mailing Address

*Boonville N.Y. 13309*  
City, State, and ZIP Code

*6/24/2011*  
Date

13c

### Optional Comment Form

Following are comments I wish to make concerning the proposed discontinuance of the WOODGATE Post Office.

1. **Effect on Your Postal Services.** Describe any favorable or unfavorable effects you believe the proposal would have on the regularity or effectiveness of your postal services.

I am 83 years old, the Woodgate P.O. has been available to me for almost forty years.  
Don't get rid of it!

2. **Effect on Your Community.** Please describe any favorable or unfavorable effects that you believe the proposal would have on your community.

3. **Other Comments.** Please provide any other views or information that you believe the Postal Service should consider in deciding whether to adopt the proposal.

Gloria Clarke

Name of Postal Customer

Gloria Clarke

Signature of Postal Customer

P.O. Box 134

Mailing Address

Woodgate, N.Y. 13494

City, State, and ZIP Code

July 13, 2011

Date

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### Optional Comment Form

Following are comments I wish to make concerning the proposed discontinuance of the WOODGATE Post Office.

1. **Effect on Your Postal Services.** Describe any favorable or unfavorable effects you believe the proposal would have on the regularity or effectiveness of your postal services.

I travel to Utica 3X a week I love being able to stop at this post office for sending bills I need to get out a/c cards they are open till 5PM which is a big help

2. **Effect on Your Community.** Please describe any favorable or unfavorable effects that you believe the proposal would have on your community.

The people there are so pleasant helpful

3. **Other Comments.** Please provide any other views or information that you believe the Postal Service should consider in deciding whether to adopt the proposal.

My post office is Thendara New York which is only a few hours at the window & is usually the opposite direction of where I am going

Name of Postal Customer

Signature of Postal Customer

Mailing Address

City, State, and ZIP Code

Date

**RE: Woodgate NY**  
**Docket 1388180-13494**  
**Item 38 Pages 132-136**  
**Intentionally left blank**

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### Optional Comment Form

Following are comments I wish to make concerning the proposed discontinuance of the WOODGATE Post Office.

1. **Effect on Your Postal Services.** Describe any favorable or unfavorable effects you believe the proposal would have on the regularity or effectiveness of your postal services.

Closure of Woodgate 13494 will have enough unfavorable issues that the town board of the Town of Forestport passed the attached resolution

2. **Effect on Your Community.** Please describe any favorable or unfavorable effects that you believe the proposal would have on your community.

devastating

3. **Other Comments.** Please provide any other views or information that you believe the Postal Service should consider in deciding whether to adopt the proposal.

Town of Forestport

William Hasenauer, Supervisor

Name of Postal Customer

Signature of Postal Customer

PO Box 137

Mailing Address

Forestport, N.Y. 13338

6-20-11

City, State, and ZIP Code

Date

DOCKET NO. 1388180-13494  
ITEM NO. 38 Docket Number 1388180- Woodgate, N.Y. 13494  
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## RESOLUTION

**Whereas** the United States Postal Service has advised patrons of the Woodgate New York (13494) post office of the review of closure of that office, and

**Whereas** the Postal Service wishes to replace the existing office with rural carrier services, let it be know that the town board of the Town of Forestport opposes the closing of the Woodgate Post Office, as a cost cutting measure, and questions the additional cost factors associated with the proposed rural carrier service.

**Therefore Be It Resolved** that the town board of the Town of Forestport directs the Supervisor to facilitate all steps necessary to assure the continuation of the Woodgate Post office and the 13494 zip code identify.

Adopted June 15, 2011

Ayes 5 Nays 0

Kathleen Schmelzle

Kathleen Schmelzle, Town Clerk

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### Optional Comment Form

Following are comments I wish to make concerning the proposed discontinuance of the WOODGATE Post Office.

1. **Effect on Your Postal Services.** Describe any favorable or unfavorable effects you believe the proposal would have on the regularity or effectiveness of your postal services.

Closure of Woodgate will affect the 38 small businesses located within the post offices service area. Each of us have our address on our banking and business forms. It will be costly to all of us to change. We suggest you run your private company the way we have to run our business and not cut something that has only a 0.7% effect on your budget. You are increasing your operational cost by increasing rural delivery which has no income to you only carrier and mileage expenses.

2. **Effect on Your Community.** Please describe any favorable or unfavorable effects that you believe the proposal would have on your community.

The attached comment form shows what effect closing will have on the Woodgate business community.

It will have a major montary impact on all of us.

3. **Other Comments.** Please provide any other views or information that you believe the Postal Service should consider in deciding whether to adopt the proposal.

Postpone Post Office closing procedures until H.R. 1351, the USPS Pension Obligation Recalculation and Restoration Act of 2011 is complete and you recover nearly 7 billion dollars from the pension fund

North Country Communications

Name of Postal Customer

PO Box 52

Signature of Postal Customer

Mailing Address

Woodgate, N.Y. 13494

5-13-11

City, State, and ZIP Code

Date

Optional Comment Form  
Postal Docket Number 1388180-13494

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The undersigned names are of businesses served by the Woodgate Post Office. Closure of this office will affect our business operations requiring, new business forms, bank checks and operating invoices.

Adironsacks PO Box 62, Woodgate, New York 13494  
Adirondack Grocery, Rt. 28, Otter lake, N.Y. 13338  
Adirondack White Lake Association PO Box 25, Woodgate, N.Y. 13494  
Back to Basics Dog Kennels, State Rt. 28, Woodgate, N.Y. 13494  
Bear Creek Carpentry 1530 Bear creek road, Woodgate, N.Y. 13494  
Boy Scouts of America, Camp Russell General Delivery, Woodgate, N.Y. 13494  
Creekside Gifts and Antiques, Round Lake road, Woodgate, N.Y. 13494  
Camp Turk, Masonic Home, General Delivery, Woodgate, N.Y. 13494  
Camp Nazareth, General Delivery, Woodgate, N.Y. 13494  
Countryside Vet Clinic State Rt. 28 Otter Lake, N.Y. 13338  
Drake's Otter Lake Station Rt. 28 Otter Lake, N.Y. 13338  
Family Solutions 5056 Elmwood Rd, Woodgate, N.Y. 13494  
Gary Ramsey Guide Service Bear Creek Road, Woodgate, N.Y. 13494  
Jerry's Small Engine Repair 1127 Bear Creek Road, Woodgate, N.Y. 13494  
KevAnna's Coffee & Gift Shop State Rt 28 Woodgate, N.Y. 13494  
Kratzenberg's Masonary PO Box 168 Woodgate, N.Y. 13494  
Kratzensberg's Stucco, Woodgate Road, Woodgate, N.Y. 13494  
Mattson's Produce and cabins State Rt. 28 Woodgate, N.Y. 13494  
Noth Country Cabins PO Box 168 Woodgate, N.Y. 13494  
North Country Communications PO Box 52 Woodgate, N.Y. 13494  
Quilted in the Woods Route 28, Woodgate, N.Y. 13494  
Seasons Cafe and Cabins PO Box 103, Woodgate, N.Y. 13494  
Stumble Inn PO Box Woodgate, N.Y. 13494  
Up North Bait State Rt. 28 Woodgate, N.Y. 13494  
Upstate Powerwashing PO Box 52 Woodgate, N.Y. 13494  
Walker Consulting PO Box 69 Woodgate, N.Y. 13494  
White Lake Inn PO Box Woodgate, N.Y. 13494  
White Lake Antiques Rt. 28 Woodgate, N.Y. 13494  
White Lake Shores Assoc. PO Box Woodgate, N.Y. 13494  
White Lake Lodges State Rt. 28 Woodgate, N.Y. 13494  
White Otter Fish & Game Club PO Box 121 Woodgate, N.Y. 13494  
White Lake Polaris 12822 State Rt. 28, Woodgate, N.Y. 13494  
White Lake Creations 9011 Pine Road Woodgate, N.Y. 13494  
Woodgate Storage PO Box 164 Woodgate, N.Y. 13494  
Woodgate International Books, Long Lake Road, Woodgate, N.Y. 13494  
Woodgate Volunteer Fire Dept. PO Box 187 Woodgate, N.Y. 13494  
Woodgate Library PO Box 52 Woodgate, N.Y. 13494  
Woodgate Cemetery Association PO Box 52 Woodgate, N.Y. 13494

### Optional Comment Form

Following are comments I wish to make concerning the proposed discontinuance of the WOODGATE Post Office.

1. **Effect on Your Postal Services.** Describe any favorable or unfavorable effects you believe the proposal would have on the regularity or effectiveness of your postal services.

Unfavorable - Closure will affect my publishing business  
see attached letter to Senator Schumer and Congressman Owens

2. **Effect on Your Community.** Please describe any favorable or unfavorable effects that you believe the proposal would have on your community.

No community left

3. **Other Comments.** Please provide any other views or information that you believe the Postal Service should consider in deciding whether to adopt the proposal.

Stop picking on small post offices while ballooning the top

Stephanie Kelly Dietz

Name of Postal Customer



Signature of Postal Customer

Mailing Address

Woodgate, N.Y. 13494

6-20-11

City, State, and ZIP Code

Date

Congressman Bill Owens

431 Cannon House Office Building

Washington, DC 20515

June 15, 2011

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Dear Senator Schumer,

I am Stephanie Kelly Dietz and I am in the process of publishing my first book. It is a children's book about the journey of two sisters, back and forth, to their beloved Adirondack camp. It is a simple story about the love of a place, the sense of belonging this community provides upon your arrival to camp, and the "leaving a piece of yourself behind" with each departure. My book is a love story with the community of Woodgate, New York.

The official release date of my book, *Under the Blinking Light*, is 90 days away, however, book signings are now being scheduled and the first one will take place on Monday, July 18<sup>th</sup>, at the Woodgate Free Library.

I am very disheartened to learn that the Postal Service is taking steps to close the Woodgate Post Office. As I begin the most exciting venture of my career, to publish a book and then take it throughout the state, promoting the Woodgate community, inviting people to come to our community to visit, to vacation, and to live - how do I then explain that the community that serves as the inspiration for my book is in danger of total extinction, because if the Post Office closes, Woodgate, NY 13494 will no longer exist.

I am a Southern girl with deep Northern roots; my grandfather came to Utica, NY in the 1930's to buy Utica Ice Company. My mother and my aunt spent the summers of their childhood in Woodgate, swimming in the waters of White Lake. Even though I raised my children in Nashville, Tennessee, our family spent every summer in Woodgate and now my husband and I have made Woodgate our year-round home. When the trend seems to be to flee New York State, we have chosen to buck that trend and to come here as full-time residents; the Woodgate community is what called us "home".

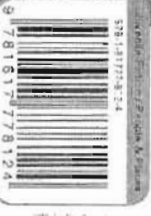
I am inviting you to come to the Woodgate Free Library on Monday, July 18<sup>th</sup>, as I launch my new book; come and meet the people of Woodgate, meet the children of our community, for they are our future, they are the future of New York State. Help us keep our Post Office, help us keep our zip code - come and see why Woodgate, New York 13494 is worth saving.

Respectfully,

Docket Number 1388180- Woodgate NY 13494

Join us as we travel to the Adirondack Mountains in upstate New York. We will explore the regions most beautiful lake that just happens to be located *Under the Blinking Light*.

Stephanie Kelly Dietz is an educator who loves writing and photography. She lives with her husband by a beautiful lake in the Adirondack Mountains of New York. She writes children's books in the shadow of the tall trees that line the shore, not far from the blinking light.



T. T. Publishing  
1st Edition

Listen! imagine! view! experience  
Listen! Dietz! Experience! See! Discover!

LIVE  
NOTES: Copyright © 2018

Stephanie Kelly Dietz

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### Optional Comment Form

Following are comments I wish to make concerning the proposed discontinuance of the WOODGATE Post Office.

1. **Effect on Your Postal Services.** Describe any favorable or unfavorable effects you believe the proposal would have on the regularity or effectiveness of your postal services.

WILL NOT HAVE THE PERSONALIZED SERVICE THAT WE HAVE WITH THE WOODGATE P.O. THEY KNOW WHEN WE HAVE OUR MAIL STOPPED, AND STARTED AGAIN AS WE ARE SNOW BIRDS

2. **Effect on Your Community.** Please describe any favorable or unfavorable effects that you believe the proposal would have on your community.

WE WOULD NOT SEE SOME PEOPLE THAT WE DO IF WE DO NOT HAVE THE WOODGATE P.O. WE WOULD NOT SEE THE BULLITTIN BOARD. IT IS A MEETING PLACE FOR THE COMMUNITY. PO BOXES ON RT 28 WOULD BE VERY DEADLY!

3. **Other Comments.** Please provide any other views or information that you believe the Postal Service should consider in deciding whether to adopt the proposal.

WHY IS THERE A POST OFFICE IN THENDARA, OLD FORGE AND INLET? THEY ARE SO CLOSE. WHY IS THERE A POST OFFICE IN FORESTPORT AND BOONVILLE. THEY ARE CLOSE ALSO. (THAT NO ONE USES) A WEN CREEK POST OFFICE !!! WE NEED THE WOODGATE POST OFFICE !!!

JOHN MATUELLA

*John Matuella*

Name of Postal Customer

5056 Elmwood Rd.

Signature of Postal Customer

Mailing Address

WOODGATE NY 13494

6-14-11

City, State, and ZIP Code

Date

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### Optional Comment Form

Following are comments I wish to make concerning the proposed discontinuance of the WOODGATE Post Office

1. Effect on Your Postal Services. Describe any <sup>?</sup>favorable or unfavorable effects you believe the proposal would have on the regularity or effectiveness of your postal services.

FIRST THINGS FIRST - THERE ARE NO FAVORABLE EFFECTS OF CLOSING THE WOODGATE POST OFFICE. AS FOR THE UNFAVORABLE EFFECTS OF CLOSING THE WOODGATE POST OFFICE, THEY WOULD PARALLEL THOSE UNFAVORABLE EFFECTS IF YOUR POST OFFICE WERE CLOSED. PLEASE REFLECT.

2. Effect on Your Community. Please describe any <sup>?</sup>favorable or unfavorable effects that you believe the proposal would have on your community.

AGAIN - THERE ARE NO FAVORABLE EFFECTS. IF THERE ARE FAVORABLE EFFECTS EACH AND EVERY POST OFFICE IN THE USA WOULD BE LOOKING FOR IT'S SHARE OF BENEFITS. AS FOR UNFAVORABLE EFFECTS - SIMPLY THE BUSINESS AND RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS WOULD NOT HAVE EFFECTIVE POSTAL SERVICE.

3. Other Comments. Please provide any other views or information that you believe the Postal Service should consider in deciding whether to adopt the proposal.

BEFORE CLOSING ANY POST OFFICE IN THE U.S.A., THE POSTAL SERVICE AND POST OFFICE OPERATIONS SHOULD CAREFULLY REVIEW THE CONTRACTS OF THE 250,000 MEMBER AMERICAN POSTAL WORKERS UNION WITH A NO-LAYOFF PROVISION, A 3.5% RAISE, SEVEN UP CAPPED COST-OF-LIVING INCREASES.

THE UNION IS HAPPY. WELL THE WOODGATE RESIDENTS ARE NOT. MY WIFE AND I ALONG WITH MY NEIGHBORS, AND ALL OTHER SOCIAL SECURITY RECIPIENTS HAVE NOT SEEN A SOCIAL SECURITY COST OF LIVING RAISE IN 9 YEARS.

DONALD & JOANNE PAPROCK

*Donald & Joanne Paprock*  
Signature of Postal Customer

Name of Postal Customer

P.O. Box 118

Mailing Address

WOODGATE, N.Y. 13494

City, State, and ZIP Code

6/15/2011

Date

HOW CAN IT BE THAT OUR HOUSEHOLD DOES NOT NEED TO HAVE A COST OF LIVING INCREASE, WHILE THE POSTAL WORKERS UNION DOES NEED TO HAVE AN INCREASE. ONE CAN ONLY CONCLUDE THAT POSTAL WORKER UNION MEMBERS PAY MORE FOR FOOD, CLOTHING, GASOLINE, SHELTER AND THE LIKE. GET REAL. DO THEY REALLY PAY MORE? THE UNION NEEDS CLOSING - NOT THE WOODGATE POST OFFICE.

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### Optional Comment Form

Following are comments I wish to make concerning the proposed discontinuance of the WOODGATE Post Office.

1. **Effect on Your Postal Services.** Describe any favorable or unfavorable effects you believe the proposal would have on the regularity or effectiveness of your postal services.

Expense, inconvenience to pick up mail.  
Loss of Woodgate address - need to change all of our contacts with new address.

2. **Effect on Your Community.** Please describe any favorable or unfavorable effects that you believe the proposal would have on your community.

Loss of Woodgate zip code; sense of community.  
Difficult; hazardous for elderly to pick up mail order medication in Forestport, especially during winter.

3. **Other Comments.** Please provide any other views or information that you believe the Postal Service should consider in deciding whether to adopt the proposal.

which is more cost effective & to have additional rural postal carriers or run the current post office on a part time basis.

Gloria & Kenneth Shaw

Name of Postal Customer

Gloria Shaw

Signature of Postal Customer

PO Box 222

Mailing Address

Woodgate NY 13494

City, State, and ZIP Code

6-10-11

Date

Albion post office has low volume of business.  
Should make more sense to close this instead.  
Thendara post office is only 3 blocks from  
Old Forge's office. Too close to warrant 2 offices.

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### Optional Comment Form

Following are comments I wish to make concerning the proposed discontinuance of the WOODGATE Post Office.

1. **Effect on Your Postal Services.** Describe any favorable or unfavorable effects you believe the proposal would have on the regularity or effectiveness of your postal services.

Buying stamps and sending packages would entail traveling 15 miles in one of 3 directions. We will want to install a mail box by the road for someone to deliver our mail along Little Long Lake Rd. All of us in the area will be driving more miles, adding considerable expense to budgets.

2. **Effect on Your Community.** Please describe any favorable or unfavorable effects that you believe the proposal would have on your community.

Our Woodgate area is small, and somewhat scattered, making it a social occasion to pick up mail and, at the same time get caught up with news. RFD routing tends to separate people.

3. **Other Comments.** Please provide any other views or information that you believe the Postal Service should consider in deciding whether to adopt the proposal.

Considering the retirement of our last Post-mistress, I feel another one should be hired to replace her. Looking at the intervals in miles between other Postoffices, it is much shorter (Thendara vs Old Forge, N.Y) in many than from Woodgate and others.

Thomas A Clark, MD

Signature of Postal Customer

Name of Postal Customer

276 Long Lake Rd. ; PO BOX 237

Mailing Address

Woodgate, NY 13494

City, State, and ZIP Code

May 26 2011

Date

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**Optional Comment Form**

Following are comments I wish to make concerning the proposed discontinuance of the WOODGATE Post Office.

1. **Effect on Your Postal Services.** Describe any ~~favorable~~ or unfavorable effects you believe the proposal would have on the regularity or effectiveness of your postal services.

How would we mail packages & buy stamps if there is no PO in Woodgate. It is a long way to Forestport.

2. **Effect on Your Community.** Please describe any ~~favorable~~ or unfavorable effects that you believe the proposal would have on your community.

It is good to have the PO right next to the Woodgate Library.  
A great place to meet people when picking up our mail.

3. **Other Comments.** Please provide any other views or information that you believe the Postal Service should consider in deciding whether to adopt the proposal.

I think the gov't. will be spending money needlessly - buying gas for all the mail delivery. Seems to me - closing one of the PO's in Forestport or Alder Creek make a lot more sense.

Sara T Clark



Name of Postal Customer

Signature of Postal Customer

Mailing Address

Woodgate NY 13494

City, State, and ZIP Code

Date

6-9-11

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### Optional Comment Form

Following are comments I wish to make concerning the proposed discontinuance of the WOODGATE Post Office.

1. **Effect on Your Postal Services.** Describe any favorable or unfavorable effects you believe the proposal would have on the regularity or effectiveness of your postal services.

We have used the Woodgate P.O. for over 30 years & have been very satisfied with the service. The P.O. is the hub of the community where we can see neighbors & check the community bulletin board for community events.

2. **Effect on Your Community.** Please describe any favorable or unfavorable effects that you believe the proposal would have on your community.

All effect I can think of are unfavorable. I would never drive to Forestport to buy stamps or mail a package - I would go to Boonville.

3. **Other Comments.** Please provide any other views or information that you believe the Postal Service should consider in deciding whether to adopt the proposal.

Helen B. Tibbitts

Name of Postal Customer

Helen B. Tibbitts

Signature of Postal Customer

PO Box 91

Mailing Address

Woodgate NY 13494

City, State, and ZIP Code

6/9/11

Date

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### Optional Comment Form

Following are comments I wish to make concerning the proposed discontinuance of the WOODGATE Post Office.

1. **Effect on Your Postal Services.** Describe any favorable or unfavorable effects you believe the proposal would have on the regularity or effectiveness of your postal services.

We use a PO Box at Woodgate because we are away from home during the winter - frequently even in the summer. We were willing to pay \$40/year for the convenience. If our post office is closed we will have to use rural delivery because it is a 20 mi trip to Forestport.

2. **Effect on Your Community.** Please describe any favorable or unfavorable effects that you believe the proposal would have on your community.

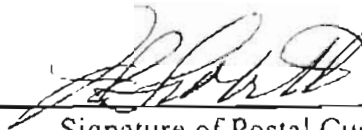
The post office is the heart of Woodgate.

3. **Other Comments.** Please provide any other views or information that you believe the Postal Service should consider in deciding whether to adopt the proposal.

We will now face the possibility of mail build-up in a rural way.

John R. Tibbitts

Name of Postal Customer



Signature of Postal Customer

PO Box 91

Mailing Address

Woodgate NY 13494

City, State, and ZIP Code

6/9/11

Date

### Optional Comment Form

Following are comments I wish to make concerning the proposed discontinuance of the WOODGATE Post Office.

1. **Effect on Your Postal Services.** Describe any favorable or unfavorable effects you believe the proposal would have on the regularity or effectiveness of your postal services.  
*I do not want to drive 15 miles to Forestport to get mail, To put up a box where I live would be suicide they fly by my house coming over a hill it would be very dangerous. We had a paper delivery person Killed about two years ago that had the same situation as we have on our road.*
2. **Effect on Your Community.** Please describe any favorable or unfavorable effects that you believe the proposal would have on your community.  
*As part of the Woodgate Vol Fire Dept it would not be good to lose our income from rent we get from the post office we buy new trucks & equipment for our department with that money. We have a lot of elderly people who can not clean out a box at the end of the road every day in winter it would be a hardship!*
3. **Other Comments.** Please provide any other views or information that you believe the Postal Service should consider in deciding whether to adopt the proposal.  
*You should have someone drive up here on a day in June, July, or Aug to see how bad traffic is on 28, You are putting your carrier in a bad area if you care about <sup>Safety</sup> ~~you~~ you should check it out.*

Name of Postal Customer

*Philip H Ruby*

Signature of Postal Customer

*Philip H Ruby*

Mailing Address

*Woodgate NY 13457*

City, State, and ZIP Code

*6/7/11*

Date

## Optional Comment Form

Following are comments I wish to make concerning the proposed discontinuance of the WOODGATE Post Office.

1. **Effect on Your Postal Services.** Describe any favorable or unfavorable effects you believe the proposal would have on the regularity or effectiveness of your postal services.

We live on a private road with thirteen other homes off of Rt. 28 at White Lake. If we are forced to go to rural delivery, since we don't want to drive 16 miles every day to get our mail, the effectiveness of our postal service will be greatly diminished. If we need stamps or any other special services, we will not be able to hear "the carrier... sound his horn" since our mailboxes will be quite a distance away at the entrance to our road off of Rt. 28. There are several similar roads like this around White Lake.

2. **Effect on Your Community.** Please describe any favorable or unfavorable effects that you believe the proposal would have on your community.

The small amount the Postal Service pays to lease the land the Post Office is on (I understand it is the lowest rent of Post Offices in the area) is still a good income to the Woodgate Fire Department. With the loss of that income, I hope the Fire department would not be negatively affected. It would be very detrimental to the community to lose their fire department, causing their insurance rates to increase and increasing the chance of losing their home if there were to be a fire because of the distance from a fire station.

3. **Other Comments.** Please provide any other views or information that you believe the Postal Service should consider in deciding whether to adopt the proposal.

I think that forcing so many people to rural delivery will create a safety hazard on Rt. 28 around White Lake. With several private roads, you will see many mailboxes at the entrance to these roads along Rt. 28. When people, especially many elderly, come out in cars to get their mail, they will be driving out into Rt. 28 to turn around and go back down their roads, creating a dangerous situation along Rt. 28.

Judith B. Shaughnessy

Name of Postal Customer

Judith B. Shaughnessy

Signature of Postal Customer

PO Box 5

Mailing Address

Woodgate, NY 13494

City, State, and ZIP Code

6/7/11

Date

### Optional Comment Form

Following are comments I wish to make concerning the proposed discontinuance of the WOODGATE Post Office.

1. **Effect on Your Postal Services.** Describe any favorable or unfavorable effects you believe the proposal would have on the regularity or effectiveness of your postal services.

convenience - small Town P.O.

2. **Effect on Your Community.** Please describe any favorable or unfavorable effects that you believe the proposal would have on your community.

difficulty picking up mail if closed

3. **Other Comments.** Please provide any other views or information that you believe the Postal Service should consider in deciding whether to adopt the proposal.

Keep us open

Charles G. Amrhein

Name of Postal Customer

Charles G. Amrhein

Signature of Postal Customer

9322 Sessions Rd

Mailing Address

Saugus N.Y.

City, State, and ZIP Code

6/6/11

Date

154

**Optional Comment Form**

Following are comments I wish to make concerning the proposed discontinuance of the WOODGATE Post Office.

1. **Effect on Your Postal Services.** Describe any favorable or unfavorable effects you believe the proposal would have on the regularity or effectiveness of your postal services.

Instead of using a post office box as we do now, we would have to rely on delivery service. A daily 20 mile round trip to Forestport for mail service would be too costly.

2. **Effect on Your Community.** Please describe any favorable or unfavorable effects that you believe the proposal would have on your community.

The Woodgate Post Office is the community center which would be missed

3. **Other Comments.** Please provide any other views or information that you believe the Postal Service should consider in deciding whether to adopt the proposal.

We currently pay \$40/year for the post office box which would be lost if the Woodgate Post Office is closed.

John R. Tibbitts

Name of Postal Customer

Signature of Postal Customer

PO Box 91

(290 Longlake Rd)

Mailing Address

Woodgate, NY, 13494

City, State, and ZIP Code

6/3/11

Date

## Optional Comment Form

Following are comments I wish to make concerning the proposed discontinuance of the WOODGATE Post Office.

1. **Effect on Your Postal Services.** Describe any favorable or unfavorable effects you believe the proposal would have on the regularity or effectiveness of your postal services.

I go to the Post Office every day to use its services, sometimes at the last minute. To add another 7-10 miles and 10-15 minutes would be both expensive and inconvenient. I also run a business that uses the Post Office, so closing the Woodgate Post Office would not be good. I can think of no favorable effect closing Woodgate would have.

2. **Effect on Your Community.** Please describe any favorable or unfavorable effects that you believe the proposal would have on your community.

To have people put mailboxes at the end of their drive ways would greatly detract from the Adirondack character of the Rt. 28 corridor, which we are trying to preserve. Also, mailboxes are subject to breakage or other damage through the winter and it would be dangerous for the mailcarrier to stop every few feet on a 55mph road to deliver mail. The mailboxes are not as secure as the Post Office. With the price of gas, it can't be cost effective to deliver all the mail along Rt. 28.

3. **Other Comments.** Please provide any other views or information that you believe the Postal Service should consider in deciding whether to adopt the proposal.

The Woodgate Post Office is a central meeting place for the residents of the Woodgate service area.

duplicate  
reason

Stephen R. Spring

Name of Postal Customer



Signature of Postal Customer

Rt. 28 Box 98

Mailing Address

Woodgate, NY 13494

City, State, and ZIP Code

6/2/11

Date

156

## Optional Comment Form

Following are comments I wish to make concerning the proposed discontinuance of the WOODGATE Post Office.

1. **Effect on Your Postal Services.** Describe any favorable or unfavorable effects you believe the proposal would have on the regularity or effectiveness of your postal services.

I would choose to have a box @ my driveway, sure. This is not as secure as a locked PO Box. I would need to travel to PO to pick up the many oversize envelopes & boxes I receive, as well as to mail things I need receipts for & buy stamps. runner  
semi  
dupl.  
-large

2. **Effect on Your Community.** Please describe any favorable or unfavorable effects that you believe the proposal would have on your community.

The post office is the center of this rural community. It is centrally located & brings neighbors together. I have heard that the building rental brings much needed revenue to the fire department. dupl.  
base

3. **Other Comments.** Please provide any other views or information that you believe the Postal Service should consider in deciding whether to adopt the proposal.

The post office is operating fine with its part timers working. The 2 north of us (Old Forge & Thendara) are very close to each other as are the 2 south of us (Alder Ck & Forrestport) why eliminate the one in the middle far from the N & S ones. other

Barbara R Spring

Name of Postal Customer

Barbara R Spring

Signature of Postal Customer

PO Box 98

Mailing Address

Woodgate NY 13494

City, State, and ZIP Code

6/1/11

Date

## Optional Comment Form

Following are comments I wish to make concerning the proposed discontinuance of the WOODGATE Post Office.

1. **Effect on Your Postal Services.** Describe any favorable or unfavorable effects you believe the proposal would have on the regularity or effectiveness of your postal services.

our community has a large summer population as well as 3 large youth camps. This would hurt our community to not be able to provide them as well as the year round community with postal service nearby. The closest for some is a 30 mile round trip. Saying the rural carrier can provide all the services a post office provides is not the answer. Small post offices are often the only federal agency in town. No other federal agency touches the lives of every American every day like the U.S. Postal Service.

2. **Effect on Your Community.** Please describe any favorable or unfavorable effects that you believe the proposal would have on your community.

I would have to drive out of my way to get services from a post office. Not wanting to change my address or maintain a rural mailbox in the winter it would certainly be a hardship for me as well as many residents.

3. **Other Comments.** Please provide any other views or information that you believe the Postal Service should consider in deciding whether to adopt the proposal.

Closing post offices will encourage postal customers to seek alternative sources to send and receive letters & parcels. This will only reduce postal revenue. Rural citizens should not be treated as second class citizens we should have equivalent services that urban residents receive.

Elaine Mahaffy

Name of Postal Customer

Elaine Mahaffy

Signature of Postal Customer

P.O. Box 55

Mailing Address

Woodgate, NY 13494

City, State, and ZIP Code

5/29/11

Date

### Optional Comment Form

Following are comments I wish to make concerning the proposed discontinuance of the WOODGATE Post Office.

1. **Effect on Your Postal Services.** Describe any favorable or unfavorable effects you believe the proposal would have on the regularity or effectiveness of your postal services.  
We GET MEDICATION IN MAIL AND DO NOT WANT TO HAVE A ROADSIDE MAILBOX. WE WILL USE GENERAL DELIVERY UNTIL A DECISION IS FINAL. IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO MAINTAIN A ROADSIDE MAILBOX
2. **Effect on Your Community.** Please describe any favorable or unfavorable effects that you believe the proposal would have on your community.  
This small community comes together @ P.O. - especially since LIBRARY is next door, Newspaper Kiosks AND Bulletin Board ARE TOGETHER.
3. **Other Comments.** Please provide any other views or information that you believe the Postal Service should consider in deciding whether to adopt the proposal.  
WE WOULD SUPPORT NO RURAL DELIVERY IN FAVOR OF BOXES @ POSTOFFICE, There are very few FULL TIME RESIDENTS ON LONG LAKE Rd.

CATHERINE SAYLES

Name of Postal Customer

Catherine Sayles

Signature of Postal Customer

Mailing Address

GENERAL DELIVERY

City, State, and ZIP Code

WOODGATE  
NY

Date

6/1/11

AS OF 6/27/11

WE ARE MOVING TO WOODGATE ON 6/27/11

159

### Optional Comment Form

Following are comments I wish to make concerning the proposed discontinuance of the WOODGATE Post Office.

1. **Effect on Your Postal Services.** Describe any favorable or unfavorable effects you believe the proposal would have on the regularity or effectiveness of your postal services.

*I AM DISABLED AND DO NOT HAVE THE ABILITY TO TRAVEL FAR FROM HOME.*

2. **Effect on Your Community.** Please describe any favorable or unfavorable effects that you believe the proposal would have on your community.

*IT'S ANOTHER SERVICE BEING CUT AT THE EXPENSE OF BUREAUCRACY.  
IT'S JUST ANOTHER REASON FOR ME TO CONSIDER RELOCATING TO ANOTHER STATE.*

3. **Other Comments.** Please provide any other views or information that you believe the Postal Service should consider in deciding whether to adopt the proposal.

*I think there are other ways of consolidating and cutting costs versus closing WOODGATE P.O. Cutting out Woodgate is a mistake. There are multi-locations in the SYR. area that could be consolidated & spare rural P.O. that residents depend upon.*

*Richard W. F. 1111*  
Name of Postal Customer

*Richard W. F. 1111*  
Signature of Postal Customer

*3050 Maple Rd.*  
Mailing Address

*Woodgate, N.Y. 13494*  
City, State, and ZIP Code

*5/27/11*  
Date

38  
160

## Optional Comment Form

Following are comments I wish to make concerning the proposed discontinuance of the WOODGATE Post Office.

1. **Effect on Your Postal Services.** Describe any favorable or unfavorable effects you believe the proposal would have on the regularity or effectiveness of your postal services.

AS A SENIOR I RECEIVE ALL MY DRUGS FROM A MAIL PHARMACY. I AM NOT HAPPY ABOUT HAVING MY DRUGS SITTING IN A ROAD SIDE MAIL BOX WHEN I AM AWAY VISITING FAMILY OR OTHER ACTIVITIES. I KNOW YOUR BOILER PLATE ANSWER SUGGESTS A P.O. BOX. HOWEVER THAT WILL REQUIRE A 12 MILE ROUND TRIP DAILY INSTEAD OF THE 4 MILES I NOW TRAVEL. AT 4 DOLLARS GAS IN NEW YORK STATE THAT MEANS AN ADDITIONAL 2 DOLLARS A DAY TO RECEIVE MY MAIL. THIS CONCERN WAS RAISED AT THE PUBLIC HEARING ON MAY 12. EVIDENTLY YOUR REP. BRIAN SHEPARDSON CHOSE NOT TO INCLUDE IN HIS REPORT

2. **Effect on Your Community.** Please describe any favorable or unfavorable effects that you believe the proposal would have on your community.

THE CENTER OF OUR COMMUNITY CONSISTS OF THREE ADJACENT BUILDINGS, THE POST OFFICE, THE LIBRARY (THAT IS OPEN ON A LIMITED BASIS) AND THE LOCAL COFFEE SHOP. SHUTTING DOWN THE POST OFFICE WILL LESSEN ATTENDANCE AT THE COFFEE SHOP AND LIBRARY AND CERTAINLY EFFECT SOCIAL CONTACT WITHIN THE COMMUNITY.

3. **Other Comments.** Please provide any other views or information that you believe the Postal Service should consider in deciding whether to adopt the proposal.

WITH THE CLOSING OF THE POST OFFICE I WILL NOT RENEW THE P.O. BOX AT A DISTANT POST OFFICE. WITH THE \$68.00 I SAVE I WILL BUY SECURITY SOFTWARE SO I WILL NOW DO MOST OF MY BANKING, BIL. PAYMENT AND BROKERAGE CORRESPONDENCE ON THE INTERNET. ALL ACTIVITIES CURRENTLY USING MAIL TO HELP KEEP OUR LOCAL POST OFFICE

Richard I. Chwazik  
Name of Postal Customer

RICHARD I CHWAZIK  
Signature of Postal Customer

P.O. BOX 116 WOODGATE NY 13484  
Mailing Address

City, State, and ZIP Code

MAY 30, 2011  
Date

161

### Optional Comment Form

Following are comments I wish to make concerning the proposed discontinuance of the WOODGATE Post Office.

1. **Effect on Your Postal Services.** Describe any favorable or unfavorable effects you believe the proposal would have on the regularity or effectiveness of your postal services.

UNFAVOURABLE, I AM WOODGATE NOT SOMEWHERE  
ELSE

2. **Effect on Your Community.** Please describe any favorable or unfavorable effects that you believe the proposal would have on your community.

I MOVED TO WOODGATE TO BE A MEMBER OF WOODGATE FIRE DEPT  
AND AM REQUIRED TO HAVE A WOODGATE MAILING ADDRESS

3. **Other Comments.** Please provide any other views or information that you believe the Postal Service should consider in deciding whether to adopt the proposal.

Your closing stinks

CAMERON FEELEY

Name of Postal Customer

CAROL T. COOK

Signature of Postal Customer

12241 RT 28

Mailing Address

WOODGATE NY 13494

City, State, and ZIP Code

5/27/11

Date

38  
162

### Optional Comment Form

Following are comments I wish to make concerning the proposed discontinuance of the WOODGATE Post Office.

1. **Effect on Your Postal Services.** Describe any favorable or unfavorable effects you believe the proposal would have on the regularity or effectiveness of your postal services.

Home delivery very inconvenient because of the time of delivery i.e. After 1:00 P.M.

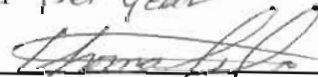
2. **Effect on Your Community.** Please describe any favorable or unfavorable effects that you believe the proposal would have on your community.

Loss of identity.

3. **Other Comments.** Please provide any other views or information that you believe the Postal Service should consider in deciding whether to adopt the proposal.

Proper insulation of Building would reduce cost of heating. use savings from a lack of Postmaster to upgrade building. Eliminate Saturday Service completely. I pay \$50.00 per year for Box Rent, do not have computer so I personally buy about 80 to 100 First class stamps per year

Thomas L Deis



Name of Postal Customer

Signature of Postal Customer

Box 188

Mailing Address

Woodgate N.Y. 13494

City, State, and ZIP Code

5/28/11

Date

38  
163

## Optional Comment Form

Following are comments I wish to make concerning the proposed discontinuance of the WOODGATE Post Office.

1. **Effect on Your Postal Services.** Describe any favorable or unfavorable effects you believe the proposal would have on the regularity or effectiveness of your postal services.

There are no favorable aspects to the closing of Woodgate. Such closing will affect by business, increase my cost of obtaining mail services and will remove my homestead identity of 135 years.

2. **Effect on Your Community.** Please describe any favorable or unfavorable effects that you believe the proposal would have on your community.

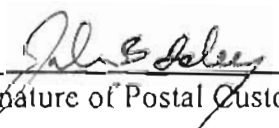
Losing a post office leaves a community without a country. Nothing to identify with as home.

3. **Other Comments.** Please provide any other views or information that you believe the Postal Service should consider in deciding whether to adopt the proposal.

The Postal Service has made their decision to close Woodgate and are simply following the procedures required by law. It will take an outside source to bring common sense to this issue. Providing rural carrier service that cost you money and provides no income is not a good business move or a good public relations move

John B. Isley

Name of Postal Customer

  
Signature of Postal Customer

PO Box 52

Mailing Address

Woodgate, N.Y. 13494

City, State, and ZIP Code

5-27-11

Date

## Optional Comment Form

Following are comments I wish to make concerning the proposed discontinuance of the WOODGATE Post Office.

1. **Effect on Your Postal Services.** Describe any favorable or unfavorable effects you believe the proposal would have on the regularity or effectiveness of your postal services.

I HAVE TO CHANGE WHERE I LIVE AND THAT IS NOT FAVORABLE TO ME

2. **Effect on Your Community.** Please describe any favorable or unfavorable effects that you believe the proposal would have on your community.

A POST OFFICE IS THE COMMUNITY, WITH OUT ONE YOU ARE NOT A COMMUNITY.

3. **Other Comments.** Please provide any other views or information that you believe the Postal Service should consider in deciding whether to adopt the proposal.

LISTEN TO THE PEOPLE

NICHOLAS D KELLY Nicholas D Kelly  
Name of Postal Customer Signature of Postal Customer  
PO Box 52  
Mailing Address  
Woodgate NY 13494 5-28-11  
City, State, and ZIP Code Date

### Optional Comment Form

Following are comments I wish to make concerning the proposed discontinuance of the WOODGATE Post Office.

1. **Effect on Your Postal Services.** Describe any favorable or unfavorable effects you believe the proposal would have on the regularity or effectiveness of your postal services.

I will personally miss Woodgate Post Office  
I own White Lake Inn and need all the services,  
I don't have time to run all over the Cook County!

2. **Effect on Your Community.** Please describe any favorable or unfavorable effects that you believe the proposal would have on your community.

Unfavorable - it brings in Business

3. **Other Comments.** Please provide any other views or information that you believe the Postal Service should consider in deciding whether to adopt the proposal.

If you change my business address Everything  
connected (License, permits, Insurance,  
etc) will be greatly affected!

White Lake Inn

Name of Postal Customer

Dana Lawrence

Signature of Postal Customer

1500 Bear Creek Road  
Mailing Address

Woodgate, NY 13494  
City, State, and ZIP Code

5/26/2011  
Date

166

### Optional Comment Form

Following are comments I wish to make concerning the proposed discontinuance of the WOODGATE Post Office.

1. **Effect on Your Postal Services.** Describe any favorable or unfavorable effects you believe the proposal would have on the regularity or effectiveness of your postal services.

Our mail delivery presently is dependable and timely. I am sure that with the changes proposed that the travel time necessary to another location would be difficult and it only stands to reason that delivery of mail would be hampered.

2. **Effect on Your Community.** Please describe any favorable or unfavorable effects that you believe the proposal would have on your community.

The Post office is one of the center points of our community. It is also a dependable part of our community and it would be missed greatly by locals as well as summer people & visitors to the area.

3. **Other Comments.** Please provide any other views or information that you believe the Postal Service should consider in deciding whether to adopt the proposal.

JEFFREY LASHER

Name of Postal Customer

Jeffrey Lasher

Signature of Postal Customer

8021 CAPRON RD

Mailing Address

WOODGATE N.Y. 13494

City, State, and ZIP Code

5-27-11

Date

### Optional Comment Form

Following are comments I wish to make concerning the proposed discontinuance of the WOODGATE Post Office.

1. **Effect on Your Postal Services.** Describe any favorable or unfavorable effects you believe the proposal would have on the regularity or effectiveness of your postal services.

The are no favorable effects. We will not drive all the way to Forestport to collect our mail - so we will have RFD which means the govt. will be paying a lot for the gasoline to deliver our mail to our mailbox

2. **Effect on Your Community.** Please describe any favorable or unfavorable effects that you believe the proposal would have on your community.

Our post office is a gathering place. Always nice to see neighbors when picking up our mail

3. **Other Comments.** Please provide any other views or information that you believe the Postal Service should consider in deciding whether to adopt the proposal.

Your reason for closing Woodgate is no full time postmaster. Why don't you close either Forestport or Alder Creek & send their postmaster to Woodgate. Or how about closing either Thonkara or Old Forge & sending their postmaster to Woodgate

Sally Clark

Name of Postal Customer

P.O. Box 237

Mailing Address

Woodgate, NY 13494

City, State, and ZIP Code

Sally Clark

Signature of Postal Customer

5-26-11

Date

1168

### Optional Comment Form

Following are comments I wish to make concerning the proposed discontinuance of the WOODGATE Post Office.

1. **Effect on Your Postal Services.** Describe any favorable or unfavorable effects you believe the proposal would have on the regularity or effectiveness of your postal services.

- 1) Without a post office in Woodgate, I would have to drive a twenty mile round trip to mail anything
- 2) A rural route box would be buried with snow in the winter.
- 3) The number of "Change of Address" would be formidable

2. **Effect on Your Community.** Please describe any favorable or unfavorable effects that you believe the proposal would have on your community.

1. Without a post office, Woodgate will lose its zip code. It would disappear off the map.
2. There are many more businesses in the area than one would think. They would be greatly affected.

3. **Other Comments.** Please provide any other views or information that you believe the Postal Service should consider in deciding whether to adopt the proposal.

- 1) The mail delivery around here includes a wide ranging area as of this time. Obviously, this plan would increase the cost significantly.
2. I feel my rights as an American Citizen should be honored. My opinion should be counted.

Name of Postal Customer

Signature of Postal Customer

Mailing Address

City, State, and ZIP Code

Date

PO Box 145, W

Woodgate, N Y 13494

6/7/11

169

### Optional Comment Form

Following are comments I wish to make concerning the proposed discontinuance of the WOODGATE Post Office.

1. **Effect on Your Postal Services.** Describe any favorable or unfavorable effects you believe the proposal would have on the regularity or effectiveness of your postal services.  
WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO BUY STAMPS. I DON'T OWN A COMPUTER WOULDN'T GET MY IBD, PROBABLY WOULD RMV THE O.D. BOX. I WOULDN'T GET ANY MAIL AS IT IS NOT PRATICABLE TO PUT OUT A RURAL BOX - NOTHING FAVORABLE
2. **Effect on Your Community.** Please describe any favorable or unfavorable effects that you believe the proposal would have on your community.  
NO MEETING PLACE. TRAFFIC TO LIBRARY DOWN. HURT THE DINER AT THE COR. NOTHING FAVORABLE
3. **Other Comments.** Please provide any other views or information that you believe the Postal Service should consider in deciding whether to adopt the proposal.  
YOU WON'T SAVE ANY MONEY. YOU CAN'T EVEN RUN THE SYSTEM NOW. YOU HAVE TO CUT BENEFITS & CUT STAFF AT THE TOP & STOP THE 3% PAY RAISES. YOU HAVE TO REALIZE YOU ALL CAN'T BLOW THE HORN SOMEBODY HAS TO STEER THE TRAIN! READ BLOOMBURG

ROBERT SEAGER

Name of Postal Customer

*Robert Seager*

Signature of Postal Customer

P.O. BOX 29

Mailing Address

WOODGATE NY, 13494

City, State, and ZIP Code

6/6/11

Date

170

### Optional Comment Form

Following are comments I wish to make concerning the proposed discontinuance of the WOODGATE Post Office.

1. **Effect on Your Postal Services.** Describe any favorable or unfavorable effects you believe the proposal would have on the regularity or effectiveness of your postal services.

Mailing of packages would require a drive from White Lake to Forestport 8-10 mile or Boonville 10 miles

P.S. I mail 1-2 PKgs / week as above

I can think of no favorable result in my Postal Service with the closing of the Woodgate P.O.

2. **Effect on Your Community.** Please describe any favorable or unfavorable effects that you believe the proposal would have on your community.

I certainly cannot think of a single favorable result from the closing of our Woodgate P.O.

3. **Other Comments.** Please provide any other views or information that you believe the Postal Service should consider in deciding whether to adopt the proposal.

If economy is the basis of your current study I would suggest you review Alder Creek, Thendara and the plethora of Post offices in the Naselle Lake Corridor.

John R. Hutt

Name of Postal Customer

Signature of Postal Customer

Mailing Address

City, State, and ZIP Code

Date

c/o General Delivery, Woodgate, NY 13494

Woodgate, NY 13494

6-8-11

171

## Optional Comment Form

Following are comments I wish to make concerning the proposed discontinuance of the WOODGATE Post Office.

1. **Effect on Your Postal Services.** Describe any favorable or unfavorable effects you believe the proposal would have on the regularity or effectiveness of your postal services.

I depend Solely on the Woodgate Post office for all my postal needs - It would be a huge inconvenience for me and my family to be forced to go elsewhere to cover our postal needs

2. **Effect on Your Community.** Please describe any favorable or unfavorable effects that you believe the proposal would have on your community.

Woodgate, 13494 would completely lose their identity as a community - With such a rich history, this community needs + wants to maintain their town and their zip code. - Without this, the community Citizens and Businesses lose this important factor.

3. **Other Comments.** Please provide any other views or information that you believe the Postal Service should consider in deciding whether to adopt the proposal.

The savings would be so minimal, this proposal is not necessary. The life of a community, its people + its businesses should be considered above such a TINY return for the postal service. Communities like Woodgate are the backbone of our nation - let us be just that.

Name of Postal Customer

Signature of Postal Customer

Stephanie + Daryl Dietz

Stephanie Dietz

Mailing Address

PO Box 214, Woodgate, NY 13494

6.7.11

City, State, and ZIP Code

Date

172

### Optional Comment Form

Following are comments I wish to make concerning the proposed discontinuance of the WOODGATE Post Office.

1. **Effect on Your Postal Services.** Describe any favorable or unfavorable effects you believe the proposal would have on the regularity or effectiveness of your postal services.

Negative I run a business out of my home... I will not be able to come to post office to send out packages, get stamps, and receipts that I need for tax purposes. I also work at Woodgate Library and the library relies on the Post office for sending out & receiving books

2. **Effect on Your Community.** Please describe any favorable or unfavorable effects that you believe the proposal would have on your community.

Negative Loss of zip code. Loss of identity  
Library Impact (negative) to community from is next a social and business aspect. Library door to P.O. has a large no. of patrons checking out materials when they get mail

3. **Other Comments.** Please provide any other views or information that you believe the Postal Service should consider in deciding whether to adopt the proposal.

Cost → Rural delivery in place of people coming  
increase to the Post Office will increase the  
Not a Post Office costs. For years people have  
Savings!! picked up mail at the post office

Name of Postal Customer

William H. Karn

Signature of Postal Customer

William H. Karn

Mailing Address

424 Long Lake Road

City, State, and ZIP Code

Woodgate, New York

Date

6/6/2011

P## 315-392-4817 13494

38  
173

### Optional Comment Form

Following are comments I wish to make concerning the proposed discontinuance of the WOODGATE Post Office.

1. **Effect on Your Postal Services.** Describe any favorable or unfavorable effects you believe the proposal would have on the regularity or effectiveness of your postal services.

Over 20 mile round trip to Forestport Post office. Receive all my Prescription Drugs by mail - Unable to do Rural Delivery.

2. **Effect on Your Community.** Please describe any favorable or unfavorable effects that you believe the proposal would have on your community.

The Post office in Woodgate is the hub of the local community - where neighbors can meet neighbors year around. People going to the Post office every day support local business on most days before or after being at the Post office.

3. **Other Comments.** Please provide any other views or information that you believe the Postal Service should consider in deciding whether to adopt the proposal.

Our neighbor to the North Old Forge, has 3 options to get their mail - rural delivery, Post office Box, or boat delivery to their Dock - Cut Bank or Boat Delivery Mail & keep our small Post office Open. Close Alder Creek Post office that is never used & is only a few miles from Forestport Post office - not Woodgate over 10 miles from Post office to Forestport.

DONALD C. GRAFF

Donald C. Graff

Name of Postal Customer

Signature of Postal Customer

P.O. Box 142

Mailing Address

Woodgate, New York 13494

City, State, and ZIP Code

6/6/11

Date

35  
174

### Optional Comment Form

Following are comments I wish to make concerning the proposed discontinuance of the WOODGATE Post Office.

1. **Effect on Your Postal Services.** Describe any favorable or unfavorable effects you believe the proposal would have on the regularity or effectiveness of your postal services.

We have winter here, yes I can mail packages through the rural delivery person. Do I stand out in the drifts until she arrives if it doesn't fit in my box? I suspect that at the box services will prove cumbersome and we will be obliged to truck down to the Forestport po after all.

2. **Effect on Your Community.** Please describe any favorable or unfavorable effects that you believe the proposal would have on your community.

There are no favorable effects that come to mind. Unfavorable effects include but are not limited to loss of the primary institution that gives woodgate a sense of being a community; further strains our thin resources in adding considerable miles to travelling to another PO, loss of a major center for local information.

3. **Other Comments.** Please provide any other views or information that you believe the Postal Service should consider in deciding whether to adopt the proposal.

If true that the delivery person will sell stamps, money orders, insurance for pigs, return requests etc and basically do all that the PO now handles, what does her/his day look like. Won't it take more and uneven hours to do a route. Will you have to add personnel. How much is really saved? We have an increasingly elderly population.

STAR G. LIVINGSTONE

Name of Postal Customer

*Star G. Livingstone*

Signature of Postal Customer

PO BOX 132

Mailing Address

WOODGATE NY 13494

City, State, and ZIP Code

6/7/11

Date

How will they be served? What about perishable items that shouldn't freeze?

38  
175

## Optional Comment Form

Following are comments I wish to make concerning the proposed discontinuance of the WOODGATE Post Office.

1. **Effect on Your Postal Services.** Describe any favorable or unfavorable effects you believe the proposal would have on the regularity or effectiveness of your postal services.

There are quite a few retirees in the Woodgate/Otter Lake area and many of them are up in years. To have their mail delivered to a rural box would put a hardship on them shoveling out their box each time the snow low goes up, that is if you allow delivery in that area. Having a rural box 1/4 mile or less from your home puts a risk of having your mail stolen, with the drug situation. now days. (see below)

2. **Effect on Your Community.** Please describe any favorable or unfavorable effects that you believe the proposal would have on your community.

There are small business that depend on their supplies coming through the mail, but work jobs during the day that would not be able to get to the Forestport post office.

I was on the library board and know it will have an effect on the traffic the library gets from having the Post Office next door - so there will be an impact there!

3. **Other Comments.** Please provide any other views or information that you believe the Postal Service should consider in deciding whether to adopt the proposal.

Closing down all these small post offices that you say, "doesn't have a postmaster in them," will not save you the big bucks you are looking for.

Start at the top and do what other companies are doing - Co-pay on insurances, cutting the to many chiefs and dropping the go increases you give out each year - that's how you save money. Joan Seager you don't make money on rural deliveries.

Name of Postal Customer

Signature of Postal Customer

Mailing Address

City, State, and ZIP Code

Date

1. Continued - To have the post office in Forestport, more than the 7 miles - as you noted it from Post Office to Post Office and that being one way, would put more traffic summer and winter in with the tourist traffic - if you live in a tourist area you know what I am talking about, not fun. It wouldn't be fair to those that get orders for their business to have the mail or those that get a daily paper.

38  
176

### Optional Comment Form

Following are comments I wish to make concerning the proposed discontinuance of the WOODGATE Post Office.

1. **Effect on Your Postal Services.** Describe any favorable or unfavorable effects you believe the proposal would have on the regularity or effectiveness of your postal services.
2. **Effect on Your Community.** Please describe any favorable or unfavorable effects that you believe the proposal would have on your community.
3. **Other Comments.** Please provide any other views or information that you believe the Postal Service should consider in deciding whether to adopt the proposal.

stop to mail things + pick up.  
stamps - I don't feel rural delivery  
is not safe + secure.

Betty Rannels

Name of Postal Customer

Signature of Postal Customer

P.O. Box 116

Mailing Address

ithandara, NY 13472

City, State, and ZIP Code

6/15/11

Date

38  
177

### Optional Comment Form

Following are comments I wish to make concerning the proposed discontinuance of the WOODGATE Post Office.

1. **Effect on Your Postal Services.** Describe any favorable or unfavorable effects you believe the proposal would have on the regularity or effectiveness of your postal services.

IT IS VERY CLEAR THAT A RURAL CARRIER WILL NOT BE ABLE TO DUPLICATE THE SERVICES CURRENTLY PROVIDED BY THE SERVICE COUNTER AT THE WOODGATE POST OFFICE. I PERSONALLY AM VERY CONCERNED ABOUT POSSIBLE MAIL THEFT FROM A RURAL ROUTE MAIL BOX. LOCKING A BOX - GIVE ME A BREAK, THIS WON'T STOP A THIEF!

2. **Effect on Your Community.** Please describe any favorable or unfavorable effects that you believe the proposal would have on your community.

WOODGATE HAS MANY, MANY MOM AND POP BUSINESSES THAT UTILIZE THE POST OFFICE ON A DAILY BASIS. THEY DON'T HAVE THE TIME OR THE STAFF TO RUN DOWN TO FORESTPORT EVERY DAY. WE HAVE MANY SENIOR CITIZENS WHO ARE NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO KEEP A RURAL BOX SHOVELED CLEAR OF SNOW DURING OUR HARSH WINTERS.

3. **Other Comments.** Please provide any other views or information that you believe the Postal Service should consider in deciding whether to adopt the proposal.

I BELIEVE PLACING WOODGATE ON THE LIST WAS ILL-CONCEIVED. PLEASE REPLACE OUR POSTMASTER AND RE-VISE YOUR CLOSINGS LIST BY ADDING BOTH ALDER CREEK (13301) AND THENDARA (13472). LOOK INTO THIS, IT MAKES ALOT OF SENSE. THANK YOU

Name of Postal Customer

WALTER PAPROCK

Signature of Postal Customer

W. J. Paprock

Mailing Address

P.O. Box 118

City, State, and ZIP Code

WOODGATE, NY 13494

Date

JUNE 14, 2011

PLEASE NOTE - THE POSTAL SERVICE SAYS WE MAY RECEIVE P.O. BOX SERVICE IN FORESTPORT 7.0 MILES AWAY. I ASK YOU WHO LIVES AT THE POST OFFICE IN WOODGATE?? LETS BE FAIR AND HONEST ABOUT IT, MOST OF THE WOODGATE MAIL CUSTOMERS LIVE 10 OR MORE MILES FROM THE FORESTPORT POST OFFICE FOR AN AVERAGE ROUNDTRIP OF OVER 20 MILES..

38  
178

### Optional Comment Form

Following are comments I wish to make concerning the proposed discontinuance of the WOODGATE Post Office.

1. **Effect on Your Postal Services.** Describe any favorable or unfavorable effects you believe the proposal would have on the regularity or effectiveness of your postal services.

Unfavorable - Distance to other Post Office, 10 MILES - time & gas as well as familiarity of personnel at current location.

2. **Effect on Your Community.** Please describe any favorable or unfavorable effects that you believe the proposal would have on your community.

a community meeting place to share & exchange local information

3. **Other Comments.** Please provide any other views or information that you believe the Postal Service should consider in deciding whether to adopt the proposal.

Does not make logistical sense when the current Post Office serves a large population and the next one is 10 miles away. Other close by communities have Post offices within a couple of miles from each other (i.e. Thendara (off old Forge)

Name of Postal Customer

Signature of Postal Customer

Angela Mahella

[Signature]

Mailing Address

5056 Elmwood Rd

City, State, and ZIP Code

Woodgate NY

6/13/11

Date

### Optional Comment Form

Following are comments I wish to make concerning the proposed discontinuance of the WOODGATE Post Office.

1. **Effect on Your Postal Services.** Describe any favorable or unfavorable effects you believe the proposal would have on the regularity or effectiveness of your postal services.

I plan on purchasing a P.O. Box in Woodgate shortly. As I am home on an infrequent basis, mail will simply pile up in my rural box. I cannot have mail easily stopped as I must often leave at the last minute.

2. **Effect on Your Community.** Please describe any favorable or unfavorable effects that you believe the proposal would have on your community.

It would severely impact this community in a negative way. The area where the Post Office is located attracts commerce to the immediate area.

3. **Other Comments.** Please provide any other views or information that you believe the Postal Service should consider in deciding whether to adopt the proposal.

Since the P.O. is only approx. 100yds from the main Rte. 28, it is simple to drop off/pick up mail on the truck's way North/South.

Barbara Getman

Name of Postal Customer

Barbara Getman

Signature of Postal Customer

6210 Alletta Cir.

1622 Bear Creek Rd.

Mailing Address

Baldwinsville, NY 13027

6/20/11

City, State, and ZIP Code

Date

Woodgate, NY 13494

### Optional Comment Form

Following are comments I wish to make concerning the proposed discontinuance of the WOODGATE Post Office.

1. **Effect on Your Postal Services.** Describe any favorable or unfavorable effects you believe the proposal would have on the regularity or effectiveness of your postal services.

Because of our horrendous winter weather, snow amounts, rural routes are unreliable and dangerous. The many elderly in our area simply cannot keep their mailboxes cleared.

2. **Effect on Your Community.** Please describe any favorable or unfavorable effects that you believe the proposal would have on your community.

Increased traffic & fuel usage to get to the nearest post office (a necessity!) Rte. 28 is far too busy now.

3. **Other Comments.** Please provide any other views or information that you believe the Postal Service should consider in deciding whether to adopt the proposal.

Has anyone factored in the fuel increases of the future in rural route delivery?!

Robert C. Getman

Name of Postal Customer

6210 Alletta Cir.

Mailing Address

Baldwinsville, NY 13027

City, State, and ZIP Code

Robert C. Getman

Signature of Postal Customer

1699 Bear Creek Rd.

Date

Woodgate, NY 13424

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### Optional Comment Form

Following are comments I wish to make concerning the proposed discontinuance of the WOODGATE Post Office.

1. **Effect on Your Postal Services.** Describe any favorable or unfavorable effects you believe the proposal would have on the regularity or effectiveness of your postal services.

From the standpoint of just getting or picking up our mail — that one very narrow measure — there is no real change other than getting the mail in a mailbox at my home instead of the post office — it will just cost you MORE to deliver it.

2. **Effect on Your Community.** Please describe any favorable or unfavorable effects that you believe the proposal would have on your community.

HUGE IMPACT — we lose our zip code and our address identity — costing us time, effort, and money to change our address on EVERYTHING !!!

3. **Other Comments.** Please provide any other views or information that you believe the Postal Service should consider in deciding whether to adopt the proposal.

See enclosed letter

cc Bill Owens — our congressman

Timothy J. Fisher



Name of Postal Customer

Signature of Postal Customer

P.O. Box 177

Mailing Address

WOODGATE NY 13494

MAY 28, 2011

City, State, and ZIP Code

Date

DOCKET NO.

1388180-13494

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38

PAGE

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Each Post Office designated by its zip code is integral to the identity of a community: the more so for those in rural, sparsely populated areas of our nation. That is something that may not have been envisioned by those who labored to design our government and its Postal Service, but is a reality that has evolved today.

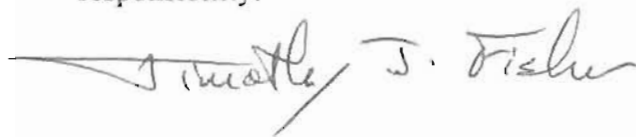
If you close a post office, you require all those served by it to change their address --- on everything that locates them in their lives.

In our little community of Woodgate NY, the Post Office serves as a focus, a magnet of sorts, a source of revenue for our volunteer fire service, and a way for all our seasonal residents to maintain their lives seamlessly. But most importantly, Woodgate serves as our locator, the way that people go about finding and contacting us. Woodgate will probably cease to exist as a place if the PO closes: a small cluster of homes along the Route 28 corridor.

Do you have other alternatives? Cut out Saturday service? Cut hours to half a day? Can one postmaster manage multiple offices? I would hope that at a minimum you keep the building and its boxes open to pickup, if not staffed. If there are protocols or regulations that preclude that THEN CHANGE THEM OR REDESIGN THEM!! Figure a way to make it work. Regulations are supposed to serve us, NOT limit us unreasonably.

We want and need to preserve our community and its address. Please design the solution to the financial problem you claim, (which incidentally we have no way to verify independently -- which is simply wrong), so that it does not cause problems elsewhere. Rather, create a solution that is best for all of us.

If you insist on closing our Post Office or hiding behind some fig leaf like a private contractor who you can close abruptly without recourse, then make no mistake -- you are causing me and those who live in Woodgate NY material harm -- financial, time, and effort to change our address, something we do not want to do, something we certainly do not choose to do, and something that will burden us with problems and costs not of our responsibility.

 Tim Fisher

Tim FISHER  
P.O. Box 178  
WOODGATE NY  
13494

RE: Woodgate NY  
Docket# 1388180-13494  
Item 38  
Page 183

June 15, 2011

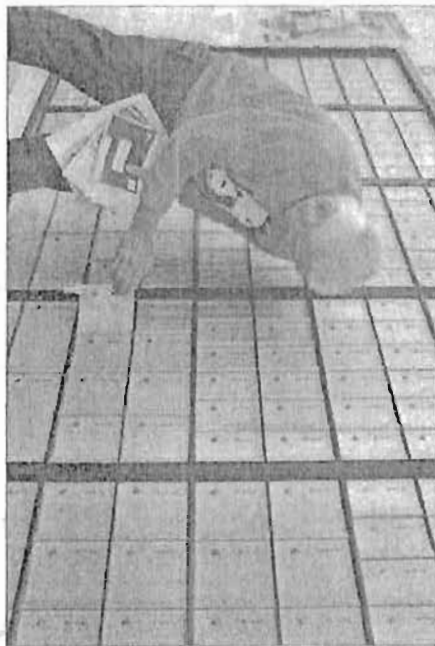
Memo to the record: The attached newspaper article "Greetings from Woodgate: Don't stamp us out!" published in the Daily Sentinel dated Saturday, May 14, 2011 was received and added to the official record.

*Jane Wolfgang*

Jane Wolfgang  
A/Optimization Coordinator

# Greetings from Woodgate: Don't stamp us out!

DAILY SENTINEL, ROME, N.Y., \$41



BY STEVE JONES

Staff writer

**WOODGATE** — It's more than "mail" to the folks who live here. Erase 13494 from the Zip Code map and part of what has defined this hamlet at the edge of Adirondack Park since Calvin Coolidge was in the White House will be lost.

The little post office within sight of the blinding light at the intersection of busy Route 28 and its far less traveled feeder, Hawkeville and Bear Creek Roads, is a money loser according to the feds. Maybe so, but it's a money maker in this part of the Town of Forestport.

More than 100 people showed up this week to defend their post office from closure, a move that they said would have far-reaching effects beyond just delivery of letters.

A post office began operating here in 1926. Since autumn of 1994, it has been reading space at 11045 Woodgate Road — also known as Hawkeville Road or

County Route 61, depending on who's talking.

The postmaster retired in the fall of 2000, and the position has been vacant since. Currently, according to the Postal Service, the office is staffed by one full-time employee with part-time fill-ins. Forestport Deputy Superintendent John Isley said the retirement, the main reason the site is being considered for closure, has not affected operations at Woodgate. It has been "business as usual," he said.

Statistics on volume of mail to any particular post office is proprietary information, according to spokeswoman Maureen P. Marston, so the Postal Service does not reveal it. What it did provide is that the Woodgate office's workload is calculated at 2.5 hours a day. It generates \$35,000 in revenue but costs \$73,500 in operational expenses annually. "We don't make our decisions based solely on economics," said Marston, but it is a factor when considering candidates for closure, she noted.

Woodgate has 125 mailboxes on site and there is rural delivery to 96 customers. In the summer, volume rises considerably, as the office handles mail from three summer youth camps — Camp Russell for Boys Scouts, Catholic Charities' Camp Nazareth and the Masonic Home's Camp Turk. There is also a significant summer seasonal population.



**SIGN OF THE TIMES** — The "Save our Post Office" tells a all Residents fear that closing the tiny office is reduced revenue for the fire department, which generates revenue for the fire department, which generates revenue for the fire department.

Isley said.

The office is located in space owned by the fire department. The cost to lease the space is \$13,000 a year, money the volunteers have come to rely on.

The loss of the office would obviously mean a change in mail services. Residents

## Decision

■ CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

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## Jailed in looting of cars parked in Utica police lot

BY SEAN I. MILLS

Staff writer

When he was released on a vandalism charge early Friday morning, law enforcers said a Utica man walked out of the police station, loaded a patrol car and then tried to hot-wire another vehicle in the parking lot.

In for a penny, in for a pound.

Police said Jerome L. Hall, 31, was first taken into custody at about 1:15 a.m. after someone drove through the lawn at the Mohawk Valley Psychiatric Center on Noyes Street and spun their tires. Hall's vehicle was located nearby, and police said the tires were caked in mud.



JEROME HALL

Hall was taken to the police station on Oriskany Boulevard City Court.

## FUNERAL NOTICES

**CARVER** — Kenneth Carver, 102, of Barnard, on Jan. 20, 2011.

Services 11:30 a.m. Monday at Olden Burial Cemetery. No calling hours. Arrangements by Mills Funeral Home, 301 Post St., Bountville.

**DAVIES** — Helen Swayze Davies, 102, formerly of Sherrell and Wampsville, on May 10, 2011.

Services 2 p.m. Sunday at the Christ Church, United Methodist, Sherrell, Bountville. Visitation 1-4 p.m. Sunday at Campbell-Dean Funeral Home, 360 Main St., Oneida.

Contributions to the Christ Church, Bountville.

**EDWARDS** — John F. Edwards, 86, of Albany and formerly of Rome, on May 11, 2011.

Services 2:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Gerald B.H. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery, Schuylerville. No calling hours.

Contributions to the Alzheimer's Association, Pine West Plaza, Bldg. 4, Suite 406, Washington Ave. Ext., Albany, N.Y. 12206, or the Deseronto Racquet Historical Museum, USS SLATER DEPT. P.O. Box 1926, Albany, N.Y. 12201-1926.

**FAUCI** — Donna Fauci, 88, of Rome, on May 11, 2011.

Services are private. No calling hours.

Arrangements by Bortini Funeral Home, 130 W. Embury St.

**HUMPH** — Georgiana Humph, 67, of New Hartford, on May 12, 2011.

Services 10 a.m. Monday at Adley Mills Funeral Home, 6607 Main St., Bountville. Visitation 1-4 p.m. Sunday at the Deseronto Racquet Historical Museum, USS SLATER DEPT. P.O. Box 1926, Albany, N.Y. 12201-1926.

Contributions to Hospice and Palliative Care or American Cancer Society. LAUSEN — Jesse D. Lausen Sr., 77, of Rome, on March 8, 2011.

## Griffo named to State Senate Finance

State Sen. Joseph A. Griffo, R-47, Rome, announced he has been named to the Senate Finance Committee by Majority Leader Dean Skelos.

The Finance Committee, in charge of reviewing the state budget and all legislation with a financial impact on the state, is considered one of the busiest and most influential of Senate committees, said the announcement.

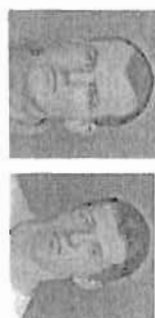
Griffo said he was honored and hum-

## 'We were stupid,' says cousin of vandalism spree

One of the Sachia cousins charged with smashing windows throughout south Rome blamed his vandalism on booze and marijuana.

The other was a no-show in City Court on Friday.

Terry L. Sachia Jr., 22, of 323 W.



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DOCKET NO.

ITEM NO.

PAGE

1388180-13494  
38  
18.34

RE: Woodgate NY  
Docket# 1388180-13494

Item 38  
Page 184

June 15, 2011

Memo to the record. The attached newspaper article "Woodgate Fights Being Lost in the Mail" published in The Post-Standard, Sunday, June 12, 2011 was received and added to the official record.

*Jane Wolfgang*

Jane Wolfgang  
A/Optimization Coordinator

# WOODGATE FIGHTS BEING LOST IN THE MAIL

DICK CASE

POST-STANDARD COLUMNIST



A tiny community at the edge of the Adirondack Park is fighting to save its post office.

Woodgate (ZIP code 13494) is one of several Upstate New York offices threatened with closure this summer by the U.S. Postal Service. The service is struggling to balance its budget in the face of growing deficits.

There's been a post office at Woodgate since 1876.

"When you lose your ZIP code, you lose your identity," said William Hasenauer, town of Forestport supervisor and a retired Oneida County sheriff. "This is identity theft."

The Postal Service could shut down its Woodgate office as early as July 27, but I got the feeling, after a visit to Woodgate last week, that the campaign to keep the post office open will continue at least another 60 days beyond that. The effort has the backing of the district's congressman, Bill Owens, D-Plattsburgh; the Oneida County executive; and John B. Isley, president of North Country Communication, whose family has lived in the Woodgate area since 1850.

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PAGE 184A

John says he fought the same battle in 1976, when Woodgate had another close call with closing, which "came down to the last minute." He credits the late Rep. Jim Hanley, of Syracuse, chair of the House Post Office Committee, with help on that one.

John is a 30-year member of the hamlet's volunteer fire department and president of the library. He's a former Boonville newspaperman.

Woodgate straddles Route 28 on its way to Old Forge. The Adirondack Park's blue line begins halfway through the hamlet, in Woodgate Cemetery. The post office sits next door to the Woodgate Free Library, which houses an impressive Woodgate and Adirondacks history collection, in a building I'm told used to be a schoolhouse. The post office building was the fire department until 1997.

The Woodgate Volunteer Fire Department leases the building to the Postal Service for \$13,000 a year. The department uses the money to purchase new equipment, including fire trucks.

USPS, PAGE B-2



## CONTACT US

You can reach the newsroom by calling 470-2265 or submit news by email to [citynews@syracuse.com](mailto:citynews@syracuse.com)

# LOCAL

THE POST-STANDARD

SUNDAY, JUNE 12, 2011, B

July 26, 2011

RE: Woodgate NY  
Docket# 1388180 - 13494  
38 / 185

Memo to the record. Item 38 Customer comments and Postal Service response letters.  
Received a packed from:

John Isley, President  
Woodgate Citizens Committee  
PO Box 52  
Woodgate NY 13494

regarding 42 Businesses and 10 non-profit community organizations that have signed a letter in support of maintaining the Woodgate Post Office.

Specifically:

- Closure of this office will affect their business operations, requiring new business forms, bank checks, and operating invoices.
- Each and every one is a mom-and-pop owner-operated enterprise with an average staff of 2-7 persons. They Do Not have the time or the personnel to travel 18-20 miles to an out-of-town post office on a daily basis.

33 of the 52 list a street address. There would be no change of address required for customers already using street delivery. Only those PO Box customers that choose to close their PO Box and opt for street delivery would require a change of address.

Additionally is a revised list of business that either rent PO Boxes or utilize retail services at Woodgate Post Office. The large majority only utilize services on an infrequent basis, the majority of which are the purchase of stamps; consistent with the response to questionnaires. Stamp purchase are the most readily available service through alternate means.

Note: John Isley is identified as the CEO that signed the lease amendment with the Post Office for the Woodgate Volunteer Fire Department.

*Nadine Tremblay*

Nadine Tremblay  
Post Office Review Coordinator

DOCKET NO. 1388180-13494  
ITEM NO. 38  
PAGE 186



July 26, 2011

RE: Woodgate NY  
Docket# 1388180 - 13494

John Isley, President  
Woodgate Citizens Committee  
PO Box 52  
Woodgate NY 13494

Dear Woodgate Citizens Committee:

The United States Postal Service is in receipt of the recently submitted statements regarding 42 Businesses and 10 non-profit community organizations that have signed a letter in support of maintaining the Woodgate Post Office.

Specifically:

- Closure of this office will affect their business operations, requiring new business forms, bank checks, and operating invoices.
- Each and every one is a mom-and-pop owner-operated enterprise with an average staff of 2-7 persons. They Do Not have the time or the personnel to travel 18-20 miles to an out-of-town post office on a daily basis.

Please note: There would be no change of address required for customers already using street delivery. Only those PO Box customers that choose to close their PO Box and opt for street delivery would require a change of address.

Services provided at the Post Office will be available from the carrier, and customers will not have to travel to another Post Office for service. Most transactions do not require meeting the carrier at the mailbox. Stamps by Mail and Money Order Application forms are available for customer convenience. Stamps are also available at many stores and gas stations where customers may already shop, online at [usps.com](http://usps.com), or by calling 1-800-STAMP-24.

Most retail services provided at the post office is available from the carrier and do not require meeting the carrier at the mailbox. Stamps by Mail and Money Order Application forms are available for customer convenience. Listed below are some services available from the carrier and how to obtain them.

#### **PURCHASING STAMPS BY MAIL**

The Stamps by Mail Program provides customers the opportunity to purchase stamps, envelopes, and postal cards by using a Stamps by Mail order form, available from the post office or the carrier. Commemorative stamps and stamp collecting products are also available. The customer addresses the postage paid order form envelope, encloses payment by personal check or postal money order made payable to the US Postal Service, and mails the form (postage-free) or leaves it in the mailbox for the carrier to pick up. Most orders are processed overnight, and some immediately.

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#### **PURCHASING POSTAL MONEY ORDERS**

Customers may purchase money orders by meeting the carrier at the mailbox, completing an application, and paying the carrier (in cash) the price of the money order, plus the fee. The carrier gives the customer a receipt for the application. The money order is completed when the carrier returns to the post office, and a money order receipt is left in the customer's mailbox on the next delivery day. Most customers provide the carrier with a stamped, self-addressed envelope in which the completed money order is mailed to its destination. If customers prefer, the completed money orders will be returned for verification on the next delivery day.

#### **SPECIAL SERVICES**

Special services such as certified, registered, Express Mail, delivery confirmation, signature confirmation, and COD may be obtained from the carrier by leaving a note in the mailbox, along with the appropriate payment. The carrier will provide the services that day and leave a customer receipt in the mailbox on the next delivery day.

#### **HOLDING MAIL**

Customers who will be away for an extended time, such as a vacation, may request that their mail be held at the post office during their absence. Upon return the customer asks the post office to resume delivery.

Based on customer feedback regarding cost associated with travel, the Postal Service is also reviewing the possibility of a Village Post Office. If applicable, this would afford the community a chance to keep their PO Boxes in a centralized location within the community.

#### **A VPO performs the following "limited" functions:**

- Sells stamps
  - Forever booklets (*sold at face value*)
  - Must maintain established quantity and replenish
- Provides Priority Flat Rate Boxes and Envelopes through small expedited package service display
- Asks Hazmat/Aviation Security questions and stamps mailing with stamp provided (*training provided by USPS*)
- Exterior Blue collection box provided
- PO Boxes (Centralized Box Unit) - *Customers retain current PO Box Address*
  - Casing of mail and rental done by carrier
  - Redelivery by carrier the next day or Customer can retrieve at Main Post Office
  - Signage on PO Box unit will address issues (rental, contents of box, etc), not the VPO contractor

*Nadine Tremblay*

Nadine Tremblay  
Post Office Review Coordinator

DOCKET NO. 1388180-13494

ITEM NO. 38

PAGE 188

Nadine Tremblay  
30 Karner Rd.  
Albany, NY 12288

Enclosed are papers that I received from the Woodgate Citizens  
Committee.

Betty Backer OIC  
Woodgate Post Office  
Woodgate, NY 13494

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WOODGATE, NY POST OFFICE

DOCKET NO. 1388180-13494

The undersigned names are of businesses and community organizations served by the Woodgate Post Office. Closure of this office will affect their business operations, requiring new business forms, bank checks, and operating invoices.

All 42 businesses and the ten non-profit community organizations have signed the accompanying letter in support of maintaining our current post office.

The 42 businesses employ a combined total of 115 people. Each and every one is a mom-and-pop owner-operated enterprise with an average staff of 2.7 persons. They DO NOT have the time or the personnel to travel 18-20 miles to an out-of-town post office on a daily basis.

The three summer youth camps employ over 100 people. The camps and the Woodgate Post Office serve the needs of over 3,000 youth campers each year.

Adirondack Grocery	13854 St. Rt. 28	Otter Lake, 13338
Adirondack White Lake Assoc.	P.O. Box 25	Woodgate, 13494
Adirondack Wreath & Mtn. Landscape	12466 St Rt 28	Woodgate, 13494
Adironshacks, Inc.	P.O. Box 62	Woodgate, 13494
ARS Construction	106 McKeever Rd	McKeever, 13338
Back To Basics Dog Obedience/Kennel	11954 St Rt 28	Woodgate, 13494
Bear Creek Carpentry	P.O. B ox 220	Woodgate, 13494
Bear Creek Guide Service	1904 Bear Creek Rd	Woodgate, 13494
Bear Creek Properties	12228 St Rt 28	Woodgate, 13494
Bear Path Antiques	13874 St Rt 28	Otter Lake, 13338
Camp Nazareth	144 Long Lake Rd	Woodgate, 13494
Carkner Construction	8155 Capron Rd	Woodgate, 13494
Camp Russell, Boy Scouts/America	St Rt 28	Woodgate, 13494
Creekside Gifts and Antiques	7015 Round Lake Rd	Woodgate, 13494
Forever Wild Garden Club	Rt 28	Woodgate, 13494
Family Solutions, LLC	5056 Elmwood Dr	Woodgate, 13494
D.C. Frymire Surveying	1283 Bear Creek Rd	Woodgate, 13494
Jerry's Small Engine Repair	1145 Bear Creek Rd	Woodgate, 13494
Kevanna's Coffee and Gift Shop	11915 St Rt 28	Woodgate, 13494
Kowalik's Hotel, Inc.	14195 St Rt 28	Otter Lake, 13338
Kratzenberg Masonry	P.O. Box 218	Woodgate, 13494
Kratzenberg Stucco and Stone	10641 Woodgate Rd	Woodgate, 13494
Lake & Country Construction	P.O. Box 195	Woodgate, 13494
Lou's Electric and Plumbing	5049 Elmwood Rd	Woodgate, 13494

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## WOODGATE BUSINESSES AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

Page Two

Masonic Home Camp	6461 Round Lake Rd	Woodgate, 13494
Matteson's Market	12466 St Rt 28	Woodgate, 13494
Nature's Treasures	1521 Bear Creek Rd	Woodgate, 13494
Nextgen Security, LLC	12768 St Rt 28	Woodgate, 13494
North Country Communications	P.O. Box 52	Woodgate, 13494
No Two Alike Landscaping	P.O. Box 14	Woodgate, 13494
Otter Lake Rustics	13977 St Rt 28	Otter Lake, 13338
Otter Lake Station	13870 St Rt 28	Otter Lake, 13338
Otter Lake Veterinary Clinic	13805 St Rt 28	Otter Lake, 13338
Quilted in the Woods	P.O. Box 66	Woodgate, 13494
Ron Walker Consulting	P.O. Box 69	Woodgate, 13494
Seasons Café	12228 St Rt 28	Woodgate, 13494
T & R Construction	1066 Birch Rd	Woodgate, 13494
Upstate Power Washing	P.O. Box 52	Woodgate, 13494
White Lake Antiques	P.O. Box 203	Woodgate, 13494
White Lake Creations	9011 Pine Rd	Woodgate, 13494
White Lake Inn	12676 St Rt 28	Woodgate, 13494
White Lake Lodges	12973 St Rt 28	Woodgate, 13494
White Lake Polaris	12822 St Rt 28	Woodgate, 13494
White Lake Shores Assoc.	5059 Elmwood Rd	Woodgate, 13494
White Otter Fish and Game Club	P.O. Box 121	Woodgate, 13494
Wintergreen Knoll, DBA Best Bears	St Rt 28	Forestport, 13338
Woodgate Cemetary Assoc	P.O. Box 52	Woodgate, 13494
Woodgate Free Library	P.O. Box 52	Woodgate, 13494
Woodgate Intl Books	P.O. Box 190	Woodgate, 13494
Woodgate Storage	P.O. Box 164	Woodgate, 13494
Woodgate Volunteer Fire Dept.	P.O. Box 187	Woodgate, 13494
Wood Shed Crafts	1208 Bear Creek Rd	Woodgate, 13494

DOCKET NO. 1388180-13494

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PAGE 191

Date: 6-25-11

## SAVE THE WOODGATE POST OFFICE

RE: DOCKET 31388180-13494

I am a small business owner in the community of Woodgate, and am writing to you in regards to the proposed closing of the Woodgate Post Office. I strongly disagree with the postal service's plan, as I feel it would not only create an undue burden to our entire community, but would also cause a strain on my family business.

My business relies heavily upon the easy accessibility to the Woodgate facility and the service that the staff provides. This easy access and full service can NEVER be duplicated by a rural carrier.

In today's economic climate it is extremely challenging to run a small business. I cannot afford to drive to an out of town post office, 18 to 20 miles round trip, on a daily basis. I do not have the extra time or the personnel for such trips, and add in the high price of gas and I lose all around.

Closing the Woodgate Post Office would leave a 24 mile gap in the Route 28 corridor without a post office. This would be highly impractical to all of our citizens and visitors.

Please maintain the current post office at Woodgate, New York.

Sincerely,

Kathy Walsh  
Signature

Adirondack Grocery  
Business Name

13854 State Rt 28  
Address

Otter Lake Ny 13338  
City, State, Zip

DOCKET NO. 1388180-13494  
ITEM NO. 38  
PAGE 192

Date: 6/27/2011

## SAVE THE WOODGATE POST OFFICE

RE: DOCKET 31388180-13494

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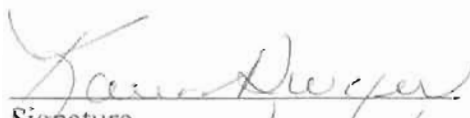
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Please maintain the current post office at Woodgate, New York.

Sincerely,

  
Signature *Secretary*

Adirondack White Lake Assoc.  
Business Name

P.O. Box 25  
Address

Woodgate, NY 13494  
City, State, Zip

DOCKET NO. 1388180-13494

ITEM NO. 38

PAGE 193

Date: June 25, 2011

## SAVE THE WOODGATE POST OFFICE

RE: DOCKET 31388180-13494

I am a small business owner in the community of Woodgate, and am writing to you in regards to the proposed closing of the Woodgate Post Office. I strongly disagree with the postal service's plan, as I feel it would not only create an undue burden to our entire community, but would also cause a strain on my family business.

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Please maintain the current post office at Woodgate, New York.

Sincerely,

  
Signature

Adirondack Weather+MTN Landscaping  
Business Name

12466 RT 28  
Address

Woodgate, NY 13494  
City, State, Zip

DOCKET NO. 1388180-13494  
ITEM NO. 38  
PAGE 194

Date: 6/25/11

## SAVE THE WOODGATE POST OFFICE

RE: DOCKET 31388180-13494

I am a small business owner in the community of Woodgate, and am writing to you in regards to the proposed closing of the Woodgate Post Office. I strongly disagree with the postal service's plan, as I feel it would not only create an undue burden to our entire community, but would also cause a strain on my family business.

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Please maintain the current post office at Woodgate, New York.

Sincerely,

  
Signature

ADIRONSACKS INC  
Business Name

#62  
Address

WOODGATE NY, 13494  
City, State, Zip

DOCKET NO. 1388180-13494  
ITEM NO. 38  
PAGE 195

Date: 6/27/11

## SAVE THE WOODGATE POST OFFICE

RE: DOCKET 31388180-13494

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Please maintain the current post office at Woodgate, New York.

Sincerely,



Signature

A.R.S. Construction  
Business Name

106 McKeever Rd.  
Address

McKeever, NY 13338  
City, State, Zip

DOCKET NO. 1388180-13494

ITEM NO. 38

PAGE 196

Date: 6-26-11

## SAVE THE WOODGATE POST OFFICE

RE: DOCKET 31388180-13494

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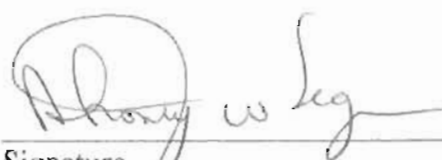
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Please maintain the current post office at Woodgate, New York.

Sincerely,

  
Signature

BACK TO BASICS Dog obedience

Business Name

11954 State Rt 28

Address

WOODGATE NY 13494  
City, State, Zip

DOCKET NO. 1388180-13494  
ITEM NO. 38  
PAGE 197

Date: 6/26/11

## SAVE THE WOODGATE POST OFFICE

RE: DOCKET 31388180-13494

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Please maintain the current post office at Woodgate, New York.

Sincerely,



Signature

BEAR CREEK CARPENTRY

Business Name

P.O. BOX 220

Address

WOODGATE 13494

City, State, Zip

DOCKET NO. 1388180-13494  
ITEM NO. 38  
PAGE 198

Date: 6/27/11

## SAVE THE WOODGATE POST OFFICE

RE: DOCKET 31388180-13494

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Please maintain the current post office at Woodgate, New York.

Sincerely,

Martin Ramsey  
Signature

Bear Creek Guide Service  
Business Name

1904 Bear Creek Rd  
Address

Woodgate, NY 13494  
City, State, Zip

DOCKET NO. 1388180-13494  
ITEM NO. 38  
PAGE 199

Date: 6/24/11

## SAVE THE WOODGATE POST OFFICE

RE: DOCKET 31388180-13494

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Please maintain the current post office at Woodgate, New York.

Sincerely,

  
Signature

Bear Creek Properties  
Business Name

12228 Route 28  
Address

Woodgate, Nf, 13494  
City, State, Zip

DOCKET NO. 1388180-13494  
ITEM NO. 38  
PAGE 200

Date: 6-26-11

## SAVE THE WOODGATE POST OFFICE

RE: DOCKET 31388180-13494

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Please maintain the current post office at Woodgate, New York.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Dylus  
Signature

Bear Path Antiques  
Business Name

13874 St Rte 28  
Address

Otter Lake NY  
City, State, Zip  
13338

DOCKET NO. 1388180-13494  
ITEM NO. 38  
PAGE 201

Date: 6/26/11

## SAVE THE WOODGATE POST OFFICE

RE: DOCKET 31388180-13494

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Please maintain the current post office at Woodgate, New York.

Sincerely,

Richard Howard  
Signature

Comp Norrath  
Business Name

144 Long Lake RD  
Address

Woodgate 13494  
City, State, Zip

DOCKET NO. 1388180-13494  
ITEM NO. 38  
PAGE 202

Date: 6-27-2011

## SAVE THE WOODGATE POST OFFICE

RE: DOCKET 31388180-13494

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Please maintain the current post office at Woodgate, New York.

Sincerely,

Signature

CAROL COSTELLO  
Business Name

855 CARROLL  
Address

WOODGATE 13494  
City, State, Zip

DOCKET NO. 1388180-13494  
ITEM NO. 38  
PAGE 203

Date: 25 JUN 11

## SAVE THE WOODGATE POST OFFICE

RE: DOCKET 31388180-13494

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Please maintain the current post office at Woodgate, New York.

Sincerely,

  
Signature

CAMP RUSSELL B.S.A.  
Business Name

STATE RT 28  
Address

WOODGATE NY 13494  
City, State, Zip

DOCKET NO. 1388180-13494

ITEM NO. 38

PAGE 204

Date: 6/26/11

## SAVE THE WOODGATE POST OFFICE

RE: DOCKET 31388180-13494

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Please maintain the current post office at Woodgate, New York.

Sincerely,

Dale Louis  
Signature

Crookside Gifts & Antiques  
Business Name

7015 Round Lake Rd.  
Address

Woodgate, NY 13494  
City, State, Zip

DOCKET NO. 1388180-13494

ITEM NO. 38

PAGE 205

Date: 6/25/11

## SAVE THE WOODGATE POST OFFICE

RE: DOCKET 31388180-13494

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Please maintain the current post office at Woodgate, New York.

Sincerely,

  
Signature

Family Solutions, LLC  
Business Name  
5050 Elmwood Rd  
Address  
Woodgate NY 13494  
City, State, Zip

DOCKET NO. 1388180-13494

ITEM NO. 38

PAGE 206

Date: June 26 2011

## SAVE THE WOODGATE POST OFFICE

RE: DOCKET 31388180-13494

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Please maintain the current post office at Woodgate, New York.

Sincerely,

Sandy Pascuca  
Signature

Forever Wild Garden Club  
Business Name

Rt. 28  
Address

Woodgate, NY 13494  
City, State, Zip

DOCKET NO. 1388180-13494  
ITEM NO. 38  
PAGE 207

Date: 6/26/11

## SAVE THE WOODGATE POST OFFICE

RE: DOCKET 31388180-13494

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Please maintain the current post office at Woodgate, New York.

Sincerely,

  
Signature

D. C. Frymire Surveying  
Business Name

1483 Bear Creek Rd  
Address

Woodgate NY 13494  
City, State, Zip

DOCKET NO. 1388180-13494  
ITEM NO. 38  
PAGE 208

Date: 6/26/11

## SAVE THE WOODGATE POST OFFICE

RE: DOCKET 31388180-13494

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Please maintain the current post office at Woodgate, New York.

Sincerely,

  
Signature

Jerry Small Engrs Refr  
Business Name  
1145 Bear Creek Rd  
Address  
Woodgate NY 13494  
City, State, Zip

DOCKET NO. 1388180-13499

ITEM NO. 38

PAGE 209

Date: 6-26-11

## SAVE THE WOODGATE POST OFFICE

RE: DOCKET 31388180-13494

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Sincerely,

  
Signature

Kevanna's  
Business Name

11915 Route 28  
Address

Forestport NY 13338  
City, State, Zip

DOCKET NO. 1388180-13494  
ITEM NO. 38  
PAGE 210

Date: June 26, 2011

## SAVE THE WOODGATE POST OFFICE

RE: DOCKET 31388180-13494

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Please maintain the current post office at Woodgate, New York.

Sincerely,

Jan M. Van Valkenburg  
Signature

Kowalik's Hotel, Inc.  
Business Name

#14195 St. Rt. 28  
Address

Otter Lake, N.Y. 13338  
City, State, Zip

DOCKET NO. 1388180-13494  
ITEM NO. 38  
PAGE 211

Date: June 26, 2011

## SAVE THE WOODGATE POST OFFICE

RE: DOCKET 31388180-13494

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Please maintain the current post office at Woodgate, New York.

Sincerely,

Kim Kratzberg  
Signature

Kratzenberg Masonry  
Business Name

PO Box 218  
Address

Woodgate, NY 13494  
City, State, Zip

DOCKET NO. 1388180-13494  
ITEM NO. 38  
PAGE 212

Date: June 26, 2011

## SAVE THE WOODGATE POST OFFICE

RE: DOCKET 31388180-13494

I am a small business owner in the community of Woodgate, and am writing to you in regards to the proposed closing of the Woodgate Post Office. I strongly disagree with the postal service's plan, as I feel it would not only create an undue burden to our entire community, but would also cause a strain on my family business.

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Please maintain the current post office at Woodgate, New York.

Sincerely,

  
Signature

Kratzenberg Stucco & Stone  
Business Name

10641 Woodgate Rd.  
Address

Woodgate, NY 13494  
City, State, Zip

DOCKET NO. 1388180-13494  
ITEM NO. 38  
PAGE 213

Date: 4/25/11

## SAVE THE WOODGATE POST OFFICE

RE: DOCKET 31388180-13494

I am a small business owner in the community of Woodgate, and am writing to you in regards to the proposed closing of the Woodgate Post Office. I strongly disagree with the postal service's plan, as I feel it would not only create an undue burden to our entire community, but would also cause a strain on my family business.

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Please maintain the current post office at Woodgate, New York.

Sincerely,

  
Signature

LAKE E COUNTRY CONSTRUCTION  
Business' Name

PO BOX 195  
Address

WOODGATE, NY 13494  
City, State, Zip

DOCKET NO. 1388180-13494  
ITEM NO. 38  
PAGE 214

Date: 6/25/11

## SAVE THE WOODGATE POST OFFICE

RE: DOCKET 31388180-13494

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Please maintain the current post office at Woodgate, New York.

Sincerely,

  
Signature

Lou's Elec & Plumb  
Business Name

5049 Elmwood Rd  
Address

Woodgate, NY 13494  
City, State, Zip

DOCKET NO. 1388180-13494  
ITEM NO. 38  
PAGE 215

Date: June 27<sup>th</sup> 2011

## SAVE THE WOODGATE POST OFFICE

RE: DOCKET 31388180-13494

I am a small business owner in the community of Woodgate, and am writing to you in regards to the proposed closing of the Woodgate Post Office. I strongly disagree with the postal service's plan, as I feel it would not only create an undue burden to our entire community, but would also cause a strain on my family business.

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Please maintain the current post office at Woodgate, New York.

Sincerely,



Signature

MASONIC Home Camp  
Business Name

6461 Round Lake Rd  
Address

Woodgate, NY 13494  
City, State, Zip

DOCKET NO. 1388180-13494  
ITEM NO. 38  
PAGE 216

Date: June 25, 2011

## SAVE THE WOODGATE POST OFFICE

RE: DOCKET 31388180-13494

I am a small business owner in the community of Woodgate, and am writing to you in regards to the proposed closing of the Woodgate Post Office. I strongly disagree with the postal service's plan, as I feel it would not only create an undue burden to our entire community, but would also cause a strain on my family business.

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Please maintain the current post office at Woodgate, New York.

Sincerely,

Bridgeta Matteson  
Signature

Matteson's Market  
Business Name

12466 RT 28  
Address

Woodgate, NY 13494  
City, State, Zip

DOCKET NO. 1388180-13494  
ITEM NO. 38  
PAGE 217

Date: 6/27/11

## SAVE THE WOODGATE POST OFFICE

RE: DOCKET 31388180-13494

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Please maintain the current post office at Woodgate, New York.

Sincerely,

  
Signature

Nature's Treasures  
Business Name

1521 Bear Creek Rd.  
Address

13494  
City, State, Zip

DOCKET NO. 1388180-13494  
ITEM NO. 38  
PAGE 218

Date: 6-27-11

## SAVE THE WOODGATE POST OFFICE

RE: DOCKET 31388180-13494

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Please maintain the current post office at Woodgate, New York.

Sincerely,

  
Signature

NEXTGEN SECURITY LLC  
Business Name

12768 STATE ROUTE 28 WOODGATE  
Address

N.Y. 13494  
City, State, Zip

DOCKET NO. 1388180-13494  
ITEM NO. 38  
PAGE 219

Date: 6/25/11

## SAVE THE WOODGATE POST OFFICE

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Please maintain the current post office at Woodgate, New York.

Sincerely,

John Isley, President  
Signature

NORTH Country Communications  
Business Name

PO Box 52  
Address

Woodgate N.Y. 13494  
City, State, Zip



DOCKET NO. 1388180-13494  
ITEM NO. 38  
PAGE 220

Date: 6/26/11

## SAVE THE WOODGATE POST OFFICE

RE: DOCKET 31388180-13494

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Please maintain the current post office at Woodgate, New York.

Sincerely,

  
Signature

NO TWO ALIKE LANDSCAPING  
Business Name

P.O. Box 14  
Address

WOODGATE, NY 13494  
City, State, Zip

DOCKET NO. 1388180-13494  
ITEM NO. 38  
PAGE 221

Date: 6/26/11

## SAVE THE WOODGATE POST OFFICE

RE: DOCKET 31388180-13494

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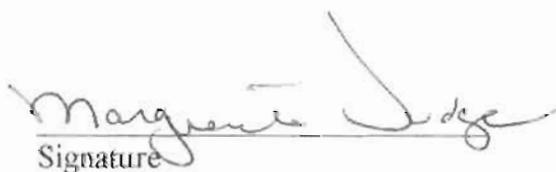
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Please maintain the current post office at Woodgate, New York.

Sincerely,

  
Signature

Otter Lake Rustics  
Business Name

13977 SE Rt 28  
Address

Otter Lake, NY 13338  
City, State, Zip

DOCKET NO. 1388180-13494  
ITEM NO. 38  
PAGE 222

Date: 6-25-11

## SAVE THE WOODGATE POST OFFICE

RE: DOCKET 31388180-13494

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Sincerely,



Signature

Otter Lake Station

Business Name

13870 State Route 28

Address

Otter Lake NY 13338-3514

City, State, Zip

DOCKET NO. 1388180-13494  
ITEM NO. 38  
PAGE 223

Date: 6/27/2011

## SAVE THE WOODGATE POST OFFICE

RE: DOCKET 31388180-13494

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Please maintain the current post office at Woodgate, New York.

Sincerely,

Victoria Brazell  
Signature

Otter Lake Veterinary Clinic  
Business Name

13805 St. Rt 28  
Address

Otter Lake, NY. 13338  
City, State, Zip

DOCKET NO. 1388180-13494  
ITEM NO. 38  
PAGE 224

Date: 6/26/11

## SAVE THE WOODGATE POST OFFICE

RE: DOCKET 31388180-13494

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Please maintain the current post office at Woodgate, New York.

Sincerely,

  
Signature

QUILTED IN THE WOODS  
Business Name

12360 STATE RT 28  
Address

PO BOX 66  
WOODGATE NY 13494-0066  
City, State, Zip

DOCKET NO. 1388180-13494  
ITEM NO. 38  
PAGE 225

Date: 6/26/11

## SAVE THE WOODGATE POST OFFICE

RE: DOCKET 31388180-13494

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Please maintain the current post office at Woodgate, New York.

Sincerely,



Signature

RON WALKER CONSULTING  
Business Name

PO BOX 69  
Address

WOODGATE NY 13494  
City, State, Zip

**RON WALKER  
CONSULTING**

**Ron Walker 315-219-2993**  
email [energymonitors@yahoo.com](mailto:energymonitors@yahoo.com)  
PO Box 69 Woodgate NY 13494  
Energy Monitor Sales and Installation

DOCKET NO. 1388180-13494  
ITEM NO. 38  
PAGE 226

Date: 6/26/11

## SAVE THE WOODGATE POST OFFICE

RE: DOCKET 31388180-13494

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Please maintain the current post office at Woodgate, New York.

Sincerely,

  
Signature

Season's Cafe  
Business Name  
13228 Route 28  
Address  
Woodgate, NY 13494  
City, State, Zip

DOCKET NO. 1388180-13494  
ITEM NO. 38  
PAGE 227

Date: 6/27/11

## SAVE THE WOODGATE POST OFFICE

RE: DOCKET 31388180-13494

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Sincerely,

  
Signature

T & S Construction  
Business Name

1066 Birch Rd  
Address

Woodgate NY 13494  
City, State, Zip

DOCKET NO. 1388180-13494  
ITEM NO. 38  
PAGE 228

Date: 6/25/11

## SAVE THE WOODGATE POST OFFICE

RE: DOCKET 31388180-13494

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Please maintain the current post office at Woodgate, New York.

Sincerely,

Michael P. Kelly  
Signature



DOCKET NO. 1388180-13494

ITEM NO. 38

PAGE 229

Date: 6-25-11

## SAVE THE WOODGATE POST OFFICE

RE: DOCKET 31388180-13494

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Please maintain the current post office at Woodgate, New York.

Sincerely,

Judy Roberts  
Signature

White Lake Antiques  
Business Name

P.O. Box 203  
Address

Woodgate, ny 13494  
City, State, Zip

DOCKET NO. 1388180-13494  
ITEM NO. 38  
PAGE 230

Date: June 27-11

## SAVE THE WOODGATE POST OFFICE

RE: DOCKET 31388180-13494

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Please maintain the current post office at Woodgate, New York.

Sincerely,

  
Signature

WhiteLake Creation  
Business Name

9011 Pine Rd  
Address

Woodgate, N.Y. 13494  
City, State, Zip

DOCKET NO. 1388180-13494  
ITEM NO. 38  
PAGE 231

Date: 6-26-11

## SAVE THE WOODGATE POST OFFICE

RE: DOCKET 31388180-13494

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Please maintain the current post office at Woodgate, New York.

Sincerely,



Signature

White Lane Inn

Business Name

12676 Rt 28

Address

Woodgate NY 13494

City, State, Zip

DOCKET NO. 1388180-13494  
ITEM NO. 38  
PAGE 232

Date: 6-27-11

## SAVE THE WOODGATE POST OFFICE

RE: DOCKET 31388180-13494

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Sincerely,

  
Signature

White Lake Lodges  
Business Name

12973 Rt 28  
Address

Woodgate NY 13494  
City, State, Zip

DOCKET NO. 1388180-13494  
ITEM NO. 38  
PAGE 233

Date: 6/25/11

## SAVE THE WOODGATE POST OFFICE

RE: DOCKET 31388180-13494

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Please maintain the current post office at Woodgate, New York.

Sincerely,

  
Signature

White Lake Polaris  
Business Name

12822 State Rt. 28  
Address

Woodgate, NY 13494  
City, State, Zip

DOCKET NO. 1388180-13494  
ITEM NO. 38  
PAGE 234

Date: 6/26/11

## SAVE THE WOODGATE POST OFFICE

RE: DOCKET 31388180-13494

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Please maintain the current post office at Woodgate, New York.

Sincerely,

  
Signature

Whitish Shores Assoc.  
Business Name

5059 ELMWOOD RD.  
Address

WOODGATE, NY 13494  
City, State, Zip

DOCKET NO. 1388180-13494  
ITEM NO. 38  
PAGE 235

Date: 6/27/11

## SAVE THE WOODGATE POST OFFICE

RE: DOCKET 31388180-13494

I am a small business owner in the community of Woodgate, and am writing to you in regards to the proposed closing of the Woodgate Post Office. I strongly disagree with the postal service's plan, as I feel it would not only create an undue burden to our entire community, but would also cause a strain on my family business.

My business relies heavily upon the easy accessibility to the Woodgate facility and the service that the staff provides. This easy access and full service can NEVER be duplicated by a rural carrier.

In today's economic climate it is extremely challenging to run a small business. I cannot afford to drive to an out of town post office, 18 to 20 miles round trip, on a daily basis. I do not have the extra time or the personnel for such trips, and add in the high price of gas and I lose all around.

Closing the Woodgate Post Office would leave a 24 mile gap in the Route 28 corridor without a post office. This would be highly impractical to all of our citizens and visitors.

Please maintain the current post office at Woodgate, New York.

Sincerely,

  
Signature

Woodgate Otter Fish & Game Club Inc  
Business Name

Box 121  
Address

Woodgate, N.Y. 13494  
City, State, Zip

DOCKET NO. 1388180-13494  
ITEM NO. 38  
PAGE 236

Date: 6/24/11

## SAVE THE WOODGATE POST OFFICE

RE: DOCKET 31388180-13494

I am a small business owner in the community of Woodgate, and am writing to you in regards to the proposed closing of the Woodgate Post Office. I strongly disagree with the postal service's plan, as I feel it would not only create an undue burden to our entire community, but would also cause a strain on my family business.

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Please maintain the current post office at Woodgate, New York.

Sincerely,

  
Signature

Wintergreen Knoll  
Business Name

St. Rte 28  
Address

Forsyth, NY 13338  
City, State, Zip

DOCKET NO. 1388180-13494  
ITEM NO. 38  
PAGE 237

Date: 6/28/11

## SAVE THE WOODGATE POST OFFICE

RE: DOCKET 31388180-13494

I am a small business owner in the community of Woodgate, and am writing to you in regards to the proposed closing of the Woodgate Post Office. I strongly disagree with the postal service's plan, as I feel it would not only create an undue burden to our entire community, but would also cause a strain on my family business.

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Please maintain the current post office at Woodgate, New York.

Sincerely,

  
Signature

WOODGATE CEMETERY ASSOC  
Business Name

PO Box 52  
Address

Woodgate N.Y 13494  
City, State, Zip

DOCKET NO. 1388180-13494  
ITEM NO. 38  
PAGE 238

Date: 6/28/11

## SAVE THE WOODGATE POST OFFICE

RE: DOCKET 31388180-13494

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Please maintain the current post office at Woodgate, New York.

Sincerely,

*John B. Kelly Jr.*  
Signature

WOODGATE Free Library  
Business Name

PO Box 52  
Address

Woodgate NY 13494  
City, State, Zip

DOCKET NO. 1388180-13494  
ITEM NO. 38  
PAGE 239

Date: JUNE 27, 2011

## SAVE THE WOODGATE POST OFFICE

RE: DOCKET 31388180-13494

I am a small business owner in the community of Woodgate, and am writing to you in regards to the proposed closing of the Woodgate Post Office. I strongly disagree with the postal service's plan, as I feel it would not only create an undue burden to our entire community, but would also cause a strain on my family business.

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Please maintain the current post office at Woodgate, New York.

Sincerely,



Signature

Business Name

Dr. John Slade  
WOODGATE INTERNATIONAL -  
jslade@dreamscape.com  
www.woodgateintl.com

City, State, Zip

DOCKET NO. 1388180-13494  
ITEM NO. 38  
PAGE 240

Date: 6/25/11

## SAVE THE WOODGATE POST OFFICE

RE: DOCKET 31388180-13494

I am a small business owner in the community of Woodgate, and am writing to you in regards to the proposed closing of the Woodgate Post Office. I strongly disagree with the postal service's plan, as I feel it would not only create an undue burden to our entire community, but would also cause a strain on my family business.

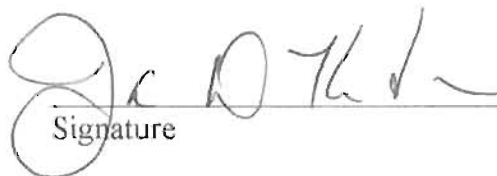
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Please maintain the current post office at Woodgate, New York.

Sincerely,

  
Signature

Woodgate Storage  
Business Name

12135 St. Rte 28  
Address

Woodgate, NY 13494  
City, State, Zip

DOCKET NO. 1388180-13494  
ITEM NO. 38  
PAGE 241

Date: 06-26-2011

## SAVE THE WOODGATE POST OFFICE

RE: DOCKET 31388180-13494

I am a small business owner in the community of Woodgate, and am writing to you in regards to the proposed closing of the Woodgate Post Office. I strongly disagree with the postal service's plan, as I feel it would not only create an undue burden to our entire community, but would also cause a strain on my family business.

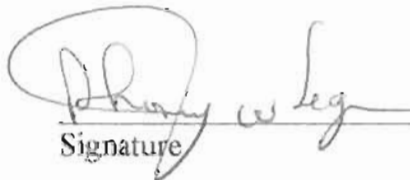
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Please maintain the current post office at Woodgate, New York.

Sincerely,

  
Signature

WOODGATE VOL. FIRE DEPT

Business Name

PO Box 987

12445 Ste 28

Address

WOODGATE NY 13494

City, State, Zip

DOCKET NO. 1388180-13494  
ITEM NO. 38  
PAGE 242

Date: 27 JUNE 2011

## SAVE THE WOODGATE POST OFFICE

RE: DOCKET 31388180-13494

I am a small business owner in the community of Woodgate, and am writing to you in regards to the proposed closing of the Woodgate Post Office. I strongly disagree with the postal service's plan, as I feel it would not only create an undue burden to our entire community, but would also cause a strain on my family business.

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Please maintain the current post office at Woodgate, New York.

Sincerely,

  
Signature

WOODSHED CRAFTS  
Business Name

1208 BEAR CREEK RD.  
Address

WOODGATE, N. Y. 13494  
City, State, Zip



August 4, 2011

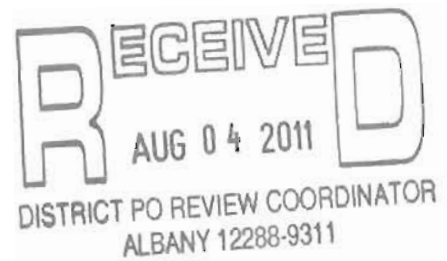
RE: Woodgate NY  
Docket# 1388180 - 13494

Memo to the record. tem 38 Customer comments and Postal Service response letters.  
Comment received on 08/04/2011 from Joan Seager, after 60 day comment period ended.

*Nadine Tremblay*

Nadine Tremblay  
Post Office Review Coordinator

DOCKET NO. 1388180-13494  
ITEM NO. 38  
PAGE 243a



July 21, 2011

Michelle Krul  
Manager, Post Office Operations  
100 Pitcher Street  
Utica, N.Y. 13504

RE: DOCKET 31388180-13494

I am writing to you about the proposed closing of the Woodgate, NY Post Office. I strongly disagree with the Postal Service's plan to close our Post Office in Woodgate

Closing our Post Office would be the wrong decision at the wrong time. Please replace our Postmaster or leave the current Officer in Charge, Betty Backer, in that position. She does an excellent job in serving the needs of our community.

If the Postal Service really wants to save monies, please consider to cut pay raises and COLE'S, the rest of us have had to do this, for the States, Counties, Cities/Towns to balance budgets. With proposing to close 3,400 Post Offices at a .07% saving you are not even getting close at paying off your debt....what would the next step be?

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joan Seager".

Joan Seager  
P.O. Box 29  
Woodgate, N.Y. 13494



**A. Office**

Name: WOODGATE State: NY Zip Code: 13494  
Area: NORTHEAST District: ALBANY PFC  
Congressional District: 23 County: Oneida  
EAS Grade: 11 Finance Number: 359480  
Post Office ☒ Classified Station ☐ Classified Branch ☐ CPO ☐

This form is a place holder for number 39. There was not a premature appeal received.

Prepared by: Nadine Tremblay  
Title: ALBANY PFC Post Office Review Coordinator  
Tele No: (518) 452-4085

Date: 07/28/2011  
Fax No: (518) 464-7429

## Analysis of 60-Day Posting Comments

### Number of comments returned

Total questionnaires distributed	137
Favorable comments	1
Unfavorable comments	125
No opinion expressed	11
Total comments returned	137

### Postal Concerns

The following postal concerns were expressed

- Concern (Favorable):**  
 Customers asked why their Post Office was being discontinued while others were retained.

**Response:**  
 Post Offices are reviewed on a case-by-case basis. When there is a vacancy in a small office, it is customary to conduct a study of the business activity and investigate the feasibility of providing service by alternate means.
- Concern (Favorable):**  
**No Concern**

**Response:**
- Concern (Favorable):**  
 You were concerned about having to travel to another post office for service

**Response:**  
 Services provided at the post office will be available from the carrier, and customers will not have to travel to another post office for service. Most transactions do not require meeting the carrier at the mailbox. Stamps by Mail and Money Order Application forms are available for customer convenience.
- Concern (No Opinion):**  
 Closing Post Office will drive customers to UPS or Fed Ex

**Response:**  
 Adapting to changes in the communication landscape is not new. By the beginning of the 20th century, there were 76,945 Post Offices, one for about every thousand residents, in our growing nation. In 1902, however, Congress extended free delivery to rural areas. That meant it was no longer necessary for patrons to visit an office to send or pick up mail. Today, there are about 31,800 post offices that provide retail and delivery services to customers nationwide. While we have seen more competition in the package delivery system over time, the largest change for us comes with the internet. A December 2010 Pew Research survey indicates that 77 percent of adult Americans regularly use the internet, with 66 percent making purchases and 58 doing banking online. These trends continue to significantly change the amount of mail that the Postal Service processes, as evident by a decline of 4.5 percent in mail volume in the past year. In package delivery, we continue to work with some of our competitors to round out the services we all provide. For example, we partner with both FedEx and UPS to provide essential parcel return services that allow customers to return items to participating retailers. We work closely with FedEx as a partner in air transport of time-sensitive packages and cargo, which keeps our prices in line and attractive for new users. And, as Congress allows us greater flexibility in developing products, we are aggressively marketing new products — like the Flat Rate Priority Mail package — that sends more business our way.
- Concern (No Opinion):**  
 Customer asked if one postmaster can manage multiple offices.

**Response:**  
 Postmasters are fiscally responsible for one independent post office, and at times can oversee the administrative responsibilities for stations or branches of the independent post office.
- Concern (No Opinion):**  
 Customer concern about cost of gas to travel to another Post Office

**Response:**  
 With a workforce that travels 1.25 billion miles on the road each year in support of mail services, a growing fleet of environmentally responsible vehicles and a price structure that suffers \$1 million in added costs whenever gas prices bump up just one penny, the Postal Service is sensitive to concerns for gas prices and travel. We are expanding our options to include centralized delivery services in some locations. We have received a notice of interest from local establishments in your area regarding placement of centralized delivery units within the community, which could minimize the need to travel to retrieve mail.

**Concern (No Opinion):**
- Customer concerned about ability to obtain flat rate packaging, early morning and overnight mailing services, accountable mail services, and zip codes from carrier.**

**Response:**  
 Flat Rate Priority Boxes can be ordered free of charge at [www.usps.com](http://www.usps.com), and will be shipped to your address. Services provided at the Post Office will be available from the carrier, and customers will not have to travel to another Post Office for service. Most transactions do not require meeting the carrier at the mailbox. Stamps by Mail are available for customer convenience. Stamps are also available at many stores and gas stations where customers may already shop, online at [usps.com](http://usps.com), or by calling 1-800-STAMP-24. There are many other services available online at [usps.com](http://usps.com), including: find a zip code, calculate postage, print a shipping label, schedule a pickup, track and confirm, price comparison, ordering free shipping supplies. Change of Address, and hold mail request to name a few. For those who do not have/use a computer call 1-800 ASK USPS to get mailing prices, change of address, track and confirm, hold mail requests, request redelivery, delivery assistance, find hours and locations, get a zip code, passport information, and buy stamps.
- Concern (No Opinion):**  
 Customer concerned about services afforded to camps.

**Response:**  
 It is the understanding of the USPS that most of the camps in the area have been afforded rural service, but may choose to pick up mail at the Post Office. Personal requirements will vary and should be considered carefully.
- Concern (No Opinion):**  
 Customer concerned about the ability of a Rural Carrier to hand cancel a particular piece of mail.

**Response:**  
 Mail that required a hand cancellation can be requested from the carrier. When the carrier returns to the Post Office, it will receive the cancellation.
- Concern (No Opinion):**  
 Customer concerned about Woodgate Post Office being part of the community for 135 years.

**Response:**  
 The Postal Service is exploring alternate services that would maintain community identity and provide some retail service. The Village Post Office is one type of alternate service that may be feasible. A VPO performs the following "limited" functions: • Sells stamps Forever booklets (sold at face value) • Must maintain established quantity and replenish • Provides Priority Flat Rate Boxes and Envelopes through small expedited package service display • Asks Hazmat/Airline Security questions and stamps mailing with stamp provided (training provided by USPS) • Exterior Blue collection box provided • PO Boxes (Centralized Box Unit) • Customers retain current PO Box Address Casing of mail and rental done by carrier Redelivery by

mail carrier's responsibility, not the VPO contractor.

11. **Concern (No Opinion):**

Customer concerned with the reference that Forestport Post Office is 7.0 miles away.

**Response:**

The Forestport Post Office is 7.0 miles away from Woodgate Post Office. Distance will be closer or further from each customer's residence.

12. **Concern (No Opinion):**

Customer expressed a concern about mail theft from the mailbox.

**Response:**

A questionnaire was sent to the postal inspection service concerning mail theft and vandalism in the Woodgate area. Their records indicate that there has not been any report of mail theft or vandalism in the area.

13. **Concern (No Opinion):**

Customer expressed a concern about package delivery and pickup.

**Response:**

Rural carriers will deliver packages that fit in your rural mail box. If the package does not fit in the mail box, the carrier will deliver the package up to 1/4 mile off of the line of travel, at a designated place, such as on your porch or under a carport. For carrier pick up of packages, you can contact the administrative Post Office, letting the carrier know that you have a package available for pick up. The carrier can deviate from the line of travel in order to receive packages. The rural carrier will accept letters, flats or packages up to 13 ounces for mailing. The carrier will estimate the cost and provide a receipt for any money received. On the following delivery day the carrier will provide change or a bill for the amount over the estimate. Packages over 13 ounces may be picked up if the postage was printed online or with a traceable meter.

**Concern (No Opinion):**

14. Customer expressed a concern about the cost savings obtained by the Postal Service from the closure of Post Offices. Quoting the PRC which said if the Postal Service closed 1000 Post Offices, it would only save 0.7% of the postal budget.

**Response:**

The Postal Service has developed and begun implementing a range of cost-reducing initiatives. These include: consolidating operations, adjusting delivery routes, restructuring administrative and processing functions and closing district offices. We also have introduced several new products and services, including Priority Mail Flat Rate boxes and Adult Signature service. In an effort to grow revenue.

**Concern (No Opinion):**

15. Customer expressed a concern about the cost savings obtained by the Postal Service from the closure of Post Offices. Quoting the PRC which said if the Postal Service closed 1000 Post Offices, it would only save 0.7% of the postal budget.

**Response:**

The Postal Service has developed and begun implementing a range of cost-reducing initiatives. These include: consolidating operations, adjusting delivery routes, restructuring administrative and processing functions and closing district offices. We also have introduced several new products and services, including Priority Mail Flat Rate boxes and Adult Signature service. In an effort to grow revenue.

16. **Concern (No Opinion):**

Customer expressed a concern regarding difficulty picking up mail if Post Office is closed.

**Response:**

The Postal Service is also reviewing the possibility of a Village Post Office. If applicable, this would afford the community a chance to keep their PO Boxes in a centralized location within the community. If located outdoors, could afford 24 hour secured access to your mail.

**Concern (No Opinion):**

17. Customer expressed a concern that they live on a private road. If they were to use rural delivery, they are concerned they would not hear the carrier's horn.

**Response:**

Stamp purchases represent more than 85 percent of the Postal Service's retail sales. Today there are nearly 70,000 banks, ATMs, grocery stores, pharmacies and retail stores selling postal products and services located nationwide. That's more than double the number of Post Offices. In fact, nearly 35 percent of the Postal Service's revenue comes from locations other than Post Offices. Our online locator service — found at the Locate A Post Office tab at [www.usps.com](http://www.usps.com) — can help individuals select the location of post offices that best suit their regular routines or to find alternate locations to purchase stamps, when provision of stamps at a post office for by a letter carrier en route are not sufficient to meet a customer's need. Each day, approximately 1.1 million Americans will use the [usps.com](http://usps.com) website for services such as how to locate a post office. The top online requests include ZIP code look up and tracking packages. We believe placing the most requested postal product — stamps — in nearly 100,000 locations nationwide, partnered with the uninterrupted delivery of your mail and expanded online services, constitutes regular and effective access for postal customers. The Postal Service is also reviewing the possibility of a Village Post Office. If applicable, this would afford the community a chance to keep their PO Boxes in a centralized location within the community.

18. **Concern (No Opinion):**

Customer expressed concern regarding having to travel to pick up prescriptions.

**Response:**

Many health care plans offer incentives to utilize the "mail order" option on prescriptions filled via their mail order channel. Delivery can be made to mail box or PO Box.

**Concern (No Opinion):**

19. Customer expressed dissatisfaction with governmental spending by Senators and Congressmen and questioned how they are trimming their own personal budgets.

**Response:**

The USPS is self supported through the sale of postage, not tax dollars, unlike departments of the Federal Government. The USPS is taking several steps to reduce the deficit. Closing small offices is one step of many which are being examined and, depending on circumstances, initiated. Additionally, there are bills before Congress to address: overpaid pensions, 5 day delivery, and pre-funded Health Benefit Relief. The Postal Service has actively made reductions at all levels of the organization, including a 20 % reduction in administrative positions, as well as reducing one Area and seven District offices.

20. **Concern (No Opinion):**

Customer expresses a concern that an individual Post Office can not be closed solely for economic reasons.

**Response:**

By regulation, we do not close post offices based solely upon revenue figures. We look at several elements that include office workload, customer demand and availability of alternatives. Finances are a part of the data collected. Consistent application of these metrics gives us an even-handed approach to studying offices around the nation.

21. **Concern (No Opinion):**

Customer feels that cost savings have to come from the top down.

**Response:**

The Postal Service has developed and begun implementing a range of cost-reducing initiatives. These include: consolidating operations, adjusting delivery routes, restructuring administrative and processing functions and closing district offices. We also have introduced several new products and services, including Priority Mail Flat Rate boxes and Adult Signature service. In an effort to grow revenue. The Postal Service of the future will be smaller, leaner and more competitive. But it will continue to drive commerce, service communities and deliver value. As a self-supporting government enterprise, the Postal Service receives no tax dollars. It relies solely on the sale of postage, products and services to pay for operating expenses. Revenue generation is a matter of business survival.

22. **Concern (No Opinion):**  
Customer felt that postal workers unions should be carefully reviewed before considering closing any post office.
- Response:**  
The Postal Service continues to cut costs significantly with initiatives to reduce the size of its labor force, the number of mail processing facilities and administrative overhead. Over the last four fiscal years, the Postal Service has reduced its size by 110,000 career positions and saved \$12 billion in costs. The Postal Service also is generating new revenue by opening cost-effective new retail locations in places where people already shop, including grocery stores, drug stores and office supply stores, and introducing other new product and pricing initiatives. Despite significant cost reductions in areas within its control, and even with this emergency action, the Postal Service needs Congress to enact legislation that would do the following to return the Postal Service to financial stability: • Eliminate the current mandates requiring retiree health benefit pre-payments, • Allow the Postal Service to access Civil Service Retirement System and FERS overpayments, • Give the Postal Service the authority to determine the frequency of mail delivery.
23. **Concern (No Opinion):**  
Customer felt the decision has already been made to close Woodgate.
- Response:**  
No final decision has been made. At the end of the 60-day comment period, additional review is made at lower and upper levels of postal management. When a final decision is made at Postal Headquarters in Washington, DC, that decision is posted in affected Post Offices for 30 days, during which customers may appeal the decision to the Postal Regulatory Commission in Washington, DC. The Postal Regulatory Commission has 120 days to consider and decide an appeal. Even without an appeal, no Post Office may be closed sooner than 60 days after the public posting of the final decision.
- Concern (No Opinion):**  
24. Customer has a street address and stated that mail delivery presently is dependable and timely. Customer is concerned that with changes proposed would hamper mail delivery.
- Response:**  
Customer currently has street delivery, and should experience no change to that service.
25. **Concern (No Opinion):**  
Customer inquired about Hold Mail service.
- Response:**  
Heading out for a few days? Whether you are on vacation or an unexpected business trip you can rest easy knowing your mail is safely held for you at your local Post Office. This online service will electronically notify your local Post Office to hold your mail. For same day service, online requests must be submitted by 2AM CST Monday - Saturday. Mail can be held from 3 to 30 days. We will resume normal delivery of your mail on the date you specify. A Hold Mail may be requested up to 14 calendar days in advance. Online access to request this service is currently limited to certain ZIP Codes. Hold Mail request forms are also available from your carrier or Post Office. Taking a long vacation? Or an out-of-town assignment? Make sure you don't miss any bills or other important mail. Premium Forwarding Service® may be the solution that is right for you.
- Concern (No Opinion):**  
26. Customer inquired if there are protocols or regulations that preclude keeping the PO boxes where they are without a retail presence.
- Response:**  
Our customer's habits have made it clear they no longer require a physical post office to conduct most of their postal business. More and more of them are choosing to conduct their postal business online, on their smart phone and at their shopping destinations. And that means the need for us to maintain nearly 32,000 retail offices has diminished. So we are taking the next step in right-sizing our retail network by studying approximately 3,700 retail offices to determine customer needs. As part of this study, we are introducing a retail-replacement option — Village Post Offices — as an option for affected communities. Village Post Offices would be operated by local businesses, such as pharmacies, grocery stores and other appropriate retailers, and would offer popular postal products and services such as stamps and flat-rate packaging.
- Concern (No Opinion):**  
27. Customer questioned how is a customer suppose to transact business with a carrier when the customer pays by credit card?
- Response:**  
You probably have seen your rural letter carrier at work, driving alongside the road, mailbox to mailbox, picking up, and delivering the mail. What you may not have seen, however, is the range and quality of services they provide. In addition to picking up and delivering your mail, they • Pick up and deliver parcels, and Priority Mail and Express Mail items, • Sell stamps and Postal Money Orders • Accept and deliver Registered Mail, Certified Mail, and Insured Mail items, • Accept payment for Collect on Delivery (COD) packages. To order stamps, postal cards, or stamped envelopes, just ask your rural letter carrier for a Stamp Purchase Order form. It comes with its own envelope. Rural carriers accept cash, checks and money orders. Credit card users can buy stamps by telephone for a small handling fee. Credit card users can dial 800-STAMP-24 (800-782-6724). Regionally, some banks and credit unions — such as Key Bank around New York — offer stamps through ATMs. A fee may apply. Credit cards are also accepted for purchases at www.usps.com. Postal money orders may not be purchased with a credit card at any time, although post offices can negotiate money orders using debit cards.
- Concern (No Opinion):**  
28. Customer questioned how perishable items that shouldn't freeze are handled.
- Response:**  
Carriers will use deliver the parcels endorsed "perishable" if it can be left at a delivery point without potential damage to the contents (such as fruit in winter). If it can not be left at the delivery point, a second attempt to deliver is made only if requested by the addressee. A second notice is sent if the parcel is not called for after 5 days. If the parcel remains unclaimed 10 days after the first delivery attempt or the retention period specified by the mailer, the parcel is handled according to POM 68, Undeliverable Mail.
- Concern (No Opinion):**  
29. Customer questioned if it will take more time for the carrier to do their route.
- Response:**  
The carrier already travels most of the roads in Woodgate. Almost all customers that currently have PO Box service, have rural delivery afforded to them.
- Concern (No Opinion):**  
30. Customer questioned reason for cut in services.
- Response:**  
As more customers choose to conduct their postal business online, on their smart phones and at their favorite shopping destinations, the need for the U.S. Postal Service to maintain its nearly 32,000 retail offices — the largest retail network in the country — diminishes. To that end, the U.S. Postal Service is taking the next step in right-sizing its expansive retail network by conducting studies of retail offices to determine customer needs. As part of this effort, the Postal Service also introduced a retail-replacement option for affected communities around the nation. Today, more than 35 percent of the Postal Service's retail revenue comes from expanded access locations such as grocery stores, drug stores, office supply stores, retail chains, self-service kiosks, ATMs and usps.com, open 24/7," said Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe. "Our customer's habits have made it clear that they no longer require a physical post office to conduct most of their postal business."
- Concern (No Opinion):**  
31. Customer questioned the additional cost factors associated with the proposed rural carrier service.
- Response:**  
Carrier service can be and, in this case, is more cost-effective than maintaining a postal facility and a postmaster position. The Postal Service estimates an annual savings with this change. Rural carrier service is already available to most locations in the Woodgate community. The estimated savings of \$ 57,479 annually, less the annual cost of replacement (rural) service - \$ 14,987, nets a positive total annual savings of \$ 42,492 as stated in the proposal.
- Concern (No Opinion):**  
32. Customer questions ability to challenge independently the financial problems of the USPS.

**Responses:**

Information regarding the current financial crisis of the Postal Service is readily available on [www.usps.com](http://www.usps.com). The Postal Service continues to face the challenge of significantly reduced revenue resulting from the dramatic loss in mail volume and the decline in First-Class Mail that began in 2008. Mail volume losses are a result of the economic recession and the continued electronic diversion of mail. On January 7, PMG Pat Donahoe announced the beginning of an organizational redesign that will help streamline the Postal Service. The announcement included a 16-percent reduction in the officer ranks of the Postal Service and the impending closure of the Southeast Area. The Postal Service continues to cut costs significantly with initiatives to reduce the size of its labor force, the number of mail processing facilities and administrative overhead. Over the last four fiscal years, the Postal Service has reduced its size by 110,000 career positions and saved \$12 billion in costs. The Postal Service also is generating new revenue by opening cost-effective new retail locations in places where people already shop, including grocery stores, drug stores and office supply stores, and introducing other new product and pricing initiatives. Despite significant cost reductions in areas within its control, and even with this emergency action, the Postal Service needs Congress to enact legislation that would do the following to return the Postal Service to financial stability: • Eliminate the current mandates requiring retiree health benefit pre-payments. • Allow the Postal Service to access Civil Service Retirement System and FERS overpayments. • Give the Postal Service the authority to determine the frequency of mail delivery.

**Concern (No Opinion):**

33. Customer requested guarantee in writing that the Postal Service would not take away their rural delivery service as part of a future cost cutting plan.

**Response:**

No one can predict the future with 100% certainty, however, the probability is that rural service would not be removed as part of a future cost cutting plan. Carrier service can be and, in this case, is more cost-effective than maintaining a postal facility and a postmaster position. The Postal Service estimates an annual savings with this change.

**Concern (No Opinion):**

34. Customer stated that if the Post Office closes, they will use the internet to conduct business.

**Response:**

Consumer needs have changed — dramatically. Customers now receive and pay bills online and communicate by e-mail and text message. They demand easier, more convenient access to Postal products and services when and where they want them — online, on their smart phones and at the stores they frequent. First-Class Mail declines are driven mainly by customers making fewer bill payments by mail, companies sending out fewer hard-copy statements and financial institutions migrating to online transactions. The recent recession significantly sped up this trend. We expect this shift in the mix of mail to continue as the digital world expands and customer habits shift accordingly. Trends also moved downward for Periodicals (newspapers and magazines), as consumers receive fewer hard-copy publications. We do not believe these trends are influenced by numbers of post offices but, rather, by the migration of materials to the internet and to new technologies in the market.

**Concern (No Opinion):**

35. Customer stated that since the PO is only approx. 100 yds. from the main Route 28, it is simple to drop off and pick up mail on the trucks way north or south.

**Response:**

Statement regarding PO being approx. 100 yds. from the main Route 28, is simple to drop off and pick up mail on the trucks way north or south has been added to the record.

**Concern (No Opinion):**

36. Customer stated the necessity for stopping raises.

**Response:**

Postal Service is moving forward with two new cash conservation initiatives effective July 1, 2011. They are: 1. Suspension of discretionary awards for FY 2011. 2. Freezing of Postal Service officer and executive compensation as it relates to the Postal Service's pay-for-performance program. The award program for employee recognition and incentive awards is suspended until further notice and applies to all Executive Administrative Schedule (EAS) — administrative and managerial positions — and Postal Career Executive Service (PCEs) — senior managers. This prohibits awarding cash, cash equivalent and non-cash tangible items intended for employee recognition.

**Concern (No Opinion):**

37. Customer stated the necessity for stopping raises.

**Response:**

Postal Service is moving forward with two new cash conservation initiatives effective July 1, 2011. They are: 1. Suspension of discretionary awards for FY 2011. 2. Freezing of Postal Service officer and executive compensation as it relates to the Postal Service's pay-for-performance program. The award program for employee recognition and incentive awards is suspended until further notice and applies to all Executive Administrative Schedule (EAS) — administrative and managerial positions — and Postal Career Executive Service (PCEs) — senior managers. This prohibits awarding cash, cash equivalent and non-cash tangible items intended for employee recognition.

**Concern (No Opinion):**

38. Customer stated the savings would be so minimal that the proposal is not necessary.

**Response:**

The Postal Service estimates a very conservative savings of \$42,492 annually. As more customers choose to conduct their postal business online, on their smart phones and at their favorite shopping destinations, the need for the U.S. Postal Service to maintain its nearly 32,000 retail offices — the largest retail network in the country — diminishes. To that end, the U.S. Postal Service is taking the next step in right-sizing its expansive retail network by conducting studies of retail offices to determine customer needs. As part of this effort, the Postal Service also introduced a retail-replacement option for affected communities around the nation. "Today, more than 35 percent of the Postal Service's retail revenue comes from expanded access locations such as grocery stores, drug stores, office supply stores, retail chains, self-service kiosks, ATMs and [usps.com](http://usps.com), open 24/7," said Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe. "Our customer's habits have made it clear that they no longer require a physical post office to conduct most of their postal business."

**Concern (No Opinion):**

39. Customer stated they were in favor of no rural delivery in favor of Boxes at Post Office.

**Response:**

The Postal Service is required to provide one free form of delivery. When street delivery is not feasible, customers are afforded no-fee PO Box service. The Postal Service is also reviewing the possibility of a Village Post Office. If applicable, this would afford the community a chance to keep their PO Boxes in a centralized location within the community.

**Concern (No Opinion):**

40. Customer submitted Resolution opposing the closing of the Woodgate Post Office as a cost cutting measure, and questions the additional cost factors associated with the proposed rural carrier service.

**Response:**

Customers Resolution has been added to the official record. Carrier service can be and, in this case, is more cost-effective than maintaining a postal facility and a postmaster position. The Postal Service estimates an annual savings with this change. Rural carrier service is already available to most locations in the Woodgate community. The estimated savings of \$ 57,479 annually, less the annual cost of replacement (rural) service - \$ 14,987, nets a positive total annual savings of \$ 42,492 as stated in the proposal.

**Concern (No Opinion):**

41. Customer suggested charging a fee for rural delivery

**Response:**

The Postal Service is required to provide one free form of delivery. When street delivery is not feasible, customers are afforded no-fee PO Box service.

**Concern (No Opinion):**

42. Customer suggested closing the post office on Saturdays.

**Response:**

The Senate subcommittee chairman introduced a bill that addresses the financial issues confronting the Postal Service.

Among other provisions, the proposal authorizes a transition to a 5-day delivery schedule. At this stage, it is still a bill.

43. **Concern (No Opinion):**

Customer suggested closing the post office on Saturdays.

**Response:**

The Senate subcommittee chairman introduced a bill that addresses the financial issues confronting the Postal Service. Among other provisions, the proposal authorizes a transition to a 5-day delivery schedule. At this stage, it is still a bill.

44. **Concern (No Opinion):**

Customer suggested reducing hours at the Post Office rather than closing it.

**Response:**

The study to close was initiated to determine if effective and regular service can be provided by a more cost-effective alternate service. Expenditures such as salary, benefits, and lease, to name a few would be much larger cost savings when alternate services are available. Reducing hours to part time would require proposing to change the independent post office to a station/branch. We are also exploring the feasibility of centralized delivery.

**Concern (No Opinion):**

45. Customer suggested that proper insulation of building would reduce cost of heating; use saving from a lack of Postmaster to upgrade building.

**Response:**

Carrier service can be and, in this case, is more cost-effective than maintaining a postal facility and a postmaster position. The Postal Service estimates an annual savings with this change.

**Concern (No Opinion):**

46. Customer suggested to postpone closing procedures until H.R. 1351, the USPS Pension Obligation Recalculation and Restoration Act of 2011 is complete and nearly 7 billion dollars from the pension fund are recovered.

**Response:**

As more customers choose to conduct their postal business online, on their smart phones and at their favorite shopping destinations, the need for the U.S. Postal Service to maintain its nearly 32,000 retail offices — the largest retail network in the country — diminishes. To that end, the U.S. Postal Service is taking the next step in right-sizing its expansive retail network by conducting studies of retail offices to determine customer needs. As part of this effort, the Postal Service also introduced a retail-replacement option for affected communities around the nation. "Today, more than 35 percent of the Postal Service's retail revenue comes from expanded access locations such as grocery stores, drug stores, office supply stores, retail chains, self-service kiosks, ATMs and usps.com, open 24/7," said Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe. "Our customer's habits have made it clear that they no longer require a physical post office to conduct most of their postal business." The Postal Service continues to cut costs significantly with initiatives to reduce the size of its labor force, the number of mail processing facilities and administrative overhead. Over the last four fiscal years, the Postal Service has reduced its size by 110,000 career positions and saved \$12 billion in costs. The Postal Service also is generating new revenue by opening cost-effective new retail locations in places where people already shop, including grocery stores, drug stores and office supply stores, and introducing other new product and pricing initiatives. Despite significant cost reductions in areas within its control, and even with this emergency action, the Postal Service needs Congress to enact legislation that would do the following to return the Postal Service to financial stability: • Eliminate the current mandates requiring retiree health benefit pre-payments. • Allow the Postal Service to access Civil Service Retirement System and FERS overpayments. • Give the Postal Service the authority to determine the frequency of mail delivery.

47. **Concern (No Opinion):**

Customer that already has a street address was concerned about having to change everything connected with it.

**Response:**

Customers that already have Woodgate street delivery WILL NOT be required to change their address.

48. **Concern (No Opinion):**

Customer was concerned about cluster box service being a hardship.

**Response:**

Proposed "centralized delivery" was an option for current PO Box customers to be able to retain their PO Box address and receive delivery in Woodgate, rather than travel to Forestport.

49. **Concern (No Opinion):**

Customers asked what other ways USPS was trying to make up the deficit, other than closing their post office.

**Response:**

Closing small offices is one step of many which are being examined and, depending on circumstances, initiated. Additionally, there are bills before Congress to address overpaid pensions, 5 day delivery, and pre-funded Health Benefit Relief. The Postal Service has actively made reductions at all levels of the organization, including a 20 % reduction in administrative positions, as well as reducing one Area and seven District offices.

50. **Concern (No Opinion):**

Customers asked why their Post Office was being discontinued while others were retained.

**Response:**

Post Offices are reviewed on a case-by-case basis. When there is a vacancy in a small office, it is customary to conduct a study of the business activity and investigate the feasibility of providing service by alternate means.

51. **Concern (No Opinion):**

Customers expressed concern about having to erect a rural mailbox.

**Response:**

Customers are not required to erect rural mailboxes. Customers may apply to receive PO Box service from the Forestport Post Office located 7.0 miles away or another location that is more convenient.

**Concern (No Opinion):**

52. Customers expressed concern for those customers with disabilities who are not able to go to Forestport Post Office to pick up their mail.

**Response:**

Customers are not required to travel to another Post Office to receive mail or obtain retail services. These services will be provided by the carrier to a roadside mailbox located close to customers' residences. In hardship cases, delivery can be made to the home of a customer. Changes in the type of delivery are considered where service by existing methods would impose an extreme physical hardship for an individual customer. Any request for a change in delivery method must be submitted in writing to the Forestport postmaster.

**Concern (No Opinion):**

53. Customers expressed concern for those customers with disabilities who are not able to go to Forestport Post Office to pick up their mail.

**Response:**

Customers are not required to travel to another Post Office to receive mail or obtain retail services. These services will be provided by the carrier to a roadside mailbox located close to customers' residences. In hardship cases, delivery can be made to the home of a customer. Changes in the type of delivery are considered where service by existing methods would impose an extreme physical hardship for an individual customer. Any request for a change in delivery method must be submitted in writing to the Forestport postmaster.

54. **Concern (No Opinion):**

Customers expressed concern over the apparent lack of interest by the Postal Service for the needs of the community.

**Response:**

The Postal Service is required to provide each community with regular and effective service, using the most cost efficient means possible. The proposed alternate delivery service will meet the mailing and service needs of the community in a more cost effective manner.

55. **Customers felt inclement weather and poor road conditions might impede delivery.**  
**Response:**  
Both inclement weather and heavy mail volume can cause deviations from the normal delivery schedule. However, the carrier is required to provide a vehicle of adequate size, equipped with necessary equipment (chains or snow tires, warning lights or signs, etc.) to serve the route safely and efficiently and in accordance with federal, state, and local motor vehicle laws and regulations.
56. **Concern (No Opinion):**  
**Customers felt the post office should remain open since they paid taxes**  
**Response:**  
You expressed a concern that since the people of your community paid taxes the post office should remain open. The Postal Service is not supported by tax dollars and must meet expenses by revenue it generates. Operational savings for the Postal Service contributes in the long run to stable postage rates and savings for customers.
57. **Concern (No Opinion):**  
**Customers inquired about mailbox installation and maintenance.**  
**Response:**  
Customers are responsible for mailbox installation and maintenance. Mailboxes must be placed so that they may be safely and conveniently served by the carrier and must be located on the right-hand side of the road in the direction of the carrier's travel. Mailbox supports should conform to state laws and highway regulations. The Postal Service recommends that customers contact the Forestport postmaster or carrier for advice on placement of mailboxes and mailbox height and supports.
58. **Concern (No Opinion):**  
**Customers said they would miss the special attention and assistance provided by the personnel at the Woodgate Post Office.**  
**Response:**  
Courteous and helpful service will be provided by personnel at the Forestport Post Office and from the carrier. Special assistance will be provided as needed.
59. **Concern (No Opinion):**  
**Customers were concerned why the postmaster position was not filled.**  
**Response:**  
All management positions were frozen in anticipation of the reorganization efforts.
60. **Concern (No Opinion):**  
**Customers were concerned about a possible address change.**  
**Response:**  
Customers who retain their PO Box or currently have street delivery WILL NOT be required to change their address. ONLY customers electing to close their PO Box and begin street delivery would be required to change their address, if a final determination is made to close or consolidate this office. 911 addresses are generally given by the county's 911 coordinator. The Postal Service does not establish 911 addresses. Any questions concerning your 911 address should be directed to the county's 911 coordinator.
61. **Concern (No Opinion):**  
**Customers were concerned about having to make an address change on their bank checks and stationery.**  
**Response:**  
Customers will be assigned a carrier route address. The new address will continue to use the community name and ZIP Code. Mail will be forwarded in accordance with postal regulations, and change of address forms are available online at usps.com or from the Postal Service to assist customers in notifying correspondents of the change. Customers may deplete their current supply of checks and stationery and make the address corrections when ordering new supplies.
62. **Concern (No Opinion):**  
**Customers were concerned about having to travel to another Post Office for service.**  
**Response:**  
Services provided at the Post Office will be available from the carrier, and customers will not have to travel to another Post Office for service. Most transactions do not require meeting the carrier at the mailbox. Stamps by Mail and Money Order Application forms are available for customer convenience. Stamps are also available at many stores and gas stations where customers may already shop, online at usps.com, or by calling 1-800-STAMP-24.
63. **Concern (No Opinion):**  
**Customers were concerned about having to travel to another Post Office for service.**  
**Response:**  
Services provided at the post office will be available from the carrier, and customers will not have to travel to another post office for service. Most transactions do not require meeting the carrier at the mailbox. Stamps by Mail and Money Order Application forms are available for customer convenience. Based on customer feedback regarding cost associated with travel, the Postal Service is also reviewing the possibility of a Village Post Office. If applicable, this would afford the community a chance to keep their PO Boxes in a centralized location within the community.
64. **Concern (No Opinion):**  
**Customers were concerned about later delivery of mail.**  
**Response:**  
The top priority of the Postal Service is to provide mail service in the most efficient manner possible because all of our costs are reflected in postage rates customers must pay. Delivery costs are one of our biggest expenses, so you can be assured that careful thought is given to the structure of each route. A customer's location on a carrier's line of travel determines the time of day mail is delivered. This, of course, precludes providing early delivery of mail to every customer because, no matter how we structure a route, somebody must be last. We do, however, carefully consider the volume of mail for each route so that we can deliver the greatest amount of mail at the earliest possible hour. With the largest fleet of delivery vehicles in the world, to minimize vehicle and fuel expenses we must also pay special attention to energy conservation measures. When the price of gasoline goes up one cent per gallon our total gasoline cost rises more than \$1 million. Therefore, when structuring a route, we must balance our goal to deliver as much mail as possible as early as possible with the need to minimize the travel distance a route must cover. We do regret the inconvenience to customers who would like, but cannot receive, early mail delivery. For those customers we offer alternative delivery services, such as Post Office box service that provide access to their mail earlier and throughout the day.
65. **Concern (No Opinion):**  
**Customers were concerned about mail security for medicine.**  
**Response:**  
Many health care plans offer incentives to utilize the "mail order" option on prescriptions filled via their mail order channel. Delivery can be made to mail box or PO Box. Customers may place a lock on their mailboxes. The mailbox must have a slot large enough to accommodate the customer's normal daily mail volume. The Postal Service does not open mailboxes which are locked and does not accept keys for this purpose.
66. **Concern (No Opinion):**  
**Customers were concerned about mail security.**  
**Response:**  
Customers may place a lock on their mailboxes. The mailbox must have a slot large enough to accommodate the customer's normal daily mail volume. The Postal Service does not open mailboxes which are locked and does not accept keys for this purpose.
67. **Concern (No Opinion):**  
**Customers were concerned about obtaining services from the carrier.**  
**Response:**  
Most retail services provided at the post office are available from the carrier and do not require meeting the carrier at the

mailbox. Stamps by Mail and Money Order Application forms are available for customer convenience. Listed below are some services available from the carrier and how to obtain them.

#### **PURCHASING STAMPS BY MAIL**

The Stamps by Mail Program provides customers the opportunity to purchase stamps, envelopes, and postal cards by using a Stamps by Mail order form, available from the post office or the carrier. Commemorative stamps and stamp collecting products are also available. The customer addresses the postage paid order form envelope, encloses payment by personal check or postal money order made payable to the US Postal Service, and mails the form (postage-free) or leaves it in the mailbox for the carrier to pick up. Most orders are processed overnight, and some immediately.

#### **PURCHASING POSTAL MONEY ORDERS**

Customers may purchase money orders by meeting the carrier at the mailbox, completing an application, and paying the carrier (in cash) the price of the money order, plus the fee. The carrier gives the customer a receipt for the application. The money order is completed when the carrier returns to the post office, and a money order receipt is left in the customer's mailbox on the next delivery day. Most customers provide the carrier with a stamped, self-addressed envelope in which the completed money order is mailed to its destination. If customers prefer, the completed money orders will be returned for verification on the next delivery day.

#### **SPECIAL SERVICES**

Special services such as certified, registered, Express Mail, delivery confirmation, signature confirmation, and COD may be obtained from the carrier by leaving a note in the mailbox, along with the appropriate payment. The carrier will provide the services that day and leave a customer receipt in the mailbox on the next delivery day.

#### **HOLDING MAIL**

Customers who will be away for an extended time, such as a vacation, may request that their mail be held at the post office during their absence. Upon return the customer asks the post office to resume delivery.

68. **Concern (No Opinion):**

Customers were concerned about permit mailing.

**Response:**

Administrative responsibility for the permit account will be or has been transferred to the Forestport Post Office. Mailings must be submitted to that office for verification. Customers interested in obtaining a permit should contact the Forestport postmaster.

69. **Concern (No Opinion):**

Customers were concerned about senior citizens

**Response:**

You expressed a concern about senior citizens. Carrier service is beneficial to many senior citizens and those who face special challenges because the carrier can provide delivery and retail services to . Customers do not have to make a special trip to the post office for service. Special provisions are made for hardship cases or special customer needs. To request an exception for hardship delivery, customers may contact the Forestport Postmaster for more information.

70. **Concern (No Opinion):**

Customers were concerned about senior citizens.

**Response:**

Carrier service is beneficial to many senior citizens and those who face special challenges because the carrier can provide delivery and retail services to roadside mailboxes or Centralized Box Units. Customers do not have to make a special trip to the Post Office for service. Special provisions are made for hardship cases or special customer needs. To request an exception for hardship delivery, customers may contact the Forestport postmaster for more information.

71. **Concern (No Opinion):**

Customers were concerned about senior citizens.

**Response:**

Carrier service is beneficial to many senior citizens and those who face special challenges because the carrier can provide delivery and retail services to roadside mailboxes or Centralized Box Units. Customers do not have to make a special trip to the Post Office for service. Special provisions are made for hardship cases or special customer needs. To request an exception for hardship delivery, customers may contact the Forestport postmaster for more information.

72. **Concern (No Opinion):**

Customers were concerned about the mailboxes being damaged by snowplows

**Response:**

Please contact the Forestport postmaster to determine the proper mailbox location and installation method that would help alleviate this concern. Placing the mailbox on a long, swinging, horizontal pipe is one method often used to avoid damage by snowplows.

73. **Concern (No Opinion):**

Customers were concerned about the quality of service, reliability, and integrity of the contractor.

**Response:**

Award of the contract is based on evaluation of criteria including annual monetary amount, contractor ability and background, and the quality and location of the facility. The successful bidder must be bonded and will be trained, administered, and supervised by the Postal Service to ensure high standards of service.

74. **Concern (No Opinion):**

Financial Data:

**Response:**

Financial data is considered proprietary information during the study phase. If a proposal to close and office is posted, financial data pertaining to that proposal will be disclosed on the proposal.

75. **Concern (No Opinion):**

Financial Data:

**Response:**

Financial data is considered proprietary information during the study phase. If a proposal to close and office is posted, financial data pertaining to that proposal will be disclosed on the proposal.

76. **Concern (No Opinion):**

How is service "regular and effective" when customers have to travel further to conduct certain transactions not afforded by carrier?

**Response:**

Stamp purchases represent more than 85 percent of the Postal Service's retail sales. Today there are nearly 70,000 banks, ATMs, grocery stores, pharmacies and retail stores selling postal products and services located nationwide. That's more than double the number of Post Offices. In fact, nearly 35 percent of the Postal Service's revenue comes from locations other than Post Offices. Our online locator service — found at the Locate A Post Office tab at [www.usps.com](http://www.usps.com) — can help individuals select the location of post offices that best suit their regular routines or to find alternate locations to purchase stamps, when provision of stamps at a post office for by a letter carrier en route are not sufficient to meet a customer's need. Each day, approximately 1.1 million Americans will use the [usps.com](http://usps.com) website for services such as how to locate a post office. The top online requests include ZIP code look up and tracking packages. We believe placing the most requested postal product — stamps — in nearly 100,000 locations nationwide, partnered with the uninterrupted delivery of your mail and expanded online services, constitutes regular and effective access for postal customers.

77. **Concern (No Opinion):**

How is service "regular and effective" when customers have to travel further to conduct certain transactions not afforded by carrier?

**Response:**

ATMs, grocery stores, pharmacies and retail stores selling postal products and services located nationwide. That's more than double the number of Post Offices. In fact, nearly 35 percent of the Postal Service's revenue comes from locations other than Post Offices. Our online locator service — found at the Locate A Post Office tab at [www.usps.com](http://www.usps.com) — can help individuals select the location of post offices that best suit their regular routines or to find alternate locations to purchase stamps, when provision of stamps at a post office for by a letter carrier en route are not sufficient to meet a customer's need. Each day, approximately 1.1 million Americans will use the [usps.com](http://usps.com) website for services such as how to locate a post office. The top online requests include ZIP code look up and tracking packages. We believe placing the most requested postal product — stamps — in nearly 100,000 locations nationwide, partnered with the uninterrupted delivery of your mail and expanded online services, constitutes regular and effective access for postal customers.

78. Concern (No Opinion):  
July 26, 2001 Memo to the record

**Response:**

Received 52 (42 business, 10 non-profit) statements from the Woodgate Citizens Committee regarding closure of the office would affect business operations, requiring new business forms, bank checks, and operating invoices. Each and every one is a mom-and-pop owner-operated enterprise with an average staff of 2-7 persons. They do not have the time or the personnel to travel 18-20 miles to an out-of-the town post office on a daily basis.

79. Concern (No Opinion):  
June 15, 2011 Memo to the record

**Response:**

The attached newspaper article "Woodgate Fights Being Lost in the Mail" published in The Post-Standard, Sunday, June 12, 2011 was received and added to the official record.

80. Concern (No Opinion):  
June 15, 2011 Memo to the record.

**Response:**

Received a letter from James & Brigid Matteson stating they own property on Route 28, Town of Forestport, County of Oneida, Hamlet of Woodgate, NY 13494, about 1/2 mile from the Woodgate Post Office and would like to provide assistance for alternate postal access at their business which has ample space, extensive parking and the wherewithal to staff. They can be contacted at PO Box 172, Woodgate, NY 13494. No phone number was provided. On 06/17/11, a letter was sent informing the customer that I will follow up with the VPO contact. An email was sent to Nadine Tremblay, Michelle Krul, Margaret Pepe, Linda Moak, and Sue Nielsen with the information for VPO contact.

81. Concern (No Opinion):  
June 15, 2011 Memo to the record:

**Response:**

The attached newspaper article "Greetings from Woodgate: Don't stamp us out!" published in the Daily Sentinel dated Saturday, May 14, 2011 was received and added to the official record.

82. Concern (No Opinion):  
June 27, 2011 Memo to the record

**Response:**

On 06/24/11 a petition with 693 signatures requesting the Postal Service not close the Woodgate Post Office and to reappoint a postmaster was received from Woodgate Citizens Committee. On 06/27/11, an acknowledgement was mailed to Woodgate Citizens Committee, P.O. Box 52, Woodgate, NY 13494-0052 informing Woodgate Citizens Committee the petition and was received and has been added to the official record.

83. Concern (No Opinion):  
No Concern

**Response:**

84. Concern (No Opinion):  
Suggestion to shorten hours to save money

**Response:**

Part of our obligation to study expenses includes an assessment of our infrastructure. The Postal Service spends nearly \$2 billion on building expenses to operate its real estate inventory of more than 34,000 facilities. In 1970, with passage of the Postal Reorganization Act, the old Post Office Department was transformed into the U.S. Postal Service. At that time more than 2,000 facilities served as our primary, outgoing mail processing locations. Today, that number has been reduced to less than 300. As mailing habits of the nation change, we must consider the careful, but continuous streamlining of our retail facility footprint as well. For all postal facilities, annual net rental costs exceed \$1 billion. This expense reflects the fact that almost three-quarters of Postal Service facilities are leased. As we study facilities to take out of our network, we look at leasing costs as well as ancillary costs like utilities. We have an aggressive energy conservation program in place at all of our facilities and the Postal Service estimates that it has already saved around \$400 million in facility energy costs since 2006. Shorter hours at leased facilities reduce, but do not eliminate, pressures on our overhead expenses as we need at this time.

85. Concern (Unfavorable):  
Customer expressed a concern about package delivery and pickup.

**Response:**

Rural carriers will deliver packages that fit in your rural mail box, if the package does not fit in the mail box, the carrier will deliver the package up to 1/2 mile off of the line of travel, at a designated place, such as on your porch or under a carport. For carrier pick up of packages, you can contact the administrative Post Office, letting the carrier know that you have a package available for pick up. The carrier can deviate from the line of travel in order to receive packages. The rural carrier will accept letters, flats or packages up to 13 ounces for mailing. The carrier will estimate the cost and provide a receipt for any money received. On the following delivery day the carrier will provide change or a bill for the amount over the estimate. Packages over 13 ounces may be picked up if the postage was printed online or with a traceable meter.

86. Concern (Unfavorable):  
Customer expressed a concern that they requested and were denied rural delivery service.

**Response:**

There are several guidelines which must be met prior to a road being approved for delivery. The road to be traveled must be maintained at all times of the year. It cannot dead end in a private driveway even if the drive is maintained by a municipality. There must be a suitable turning point provided for the carrier, preferably with no backing. If backing is involved, there are other guidelines to adhere to. If backing is necessitated, the Postmaster must verify it is in a low-traffic area and there are no children in the immediate vicinity on a regular basis. There must also be a minimum of one family per one-half mile of travel. If you have applied for and been denied an extension, you may wish to contact your local magistrate or other county official to determine if they can bring your road up to these standards. At that point, you may reapply for delivery.

87. Concern (Unfavorable):  
Customers asked why their Post Office was being discontinued while others were retained.

**Response:**

Post Offices are reviewed on a case-by-case basis. When there is a vacancy in a small office, it is customary to conduct a study of the business activity and investigate the feasibility of providing service by alternate means.

88. Concern (Unfavorable):  
Customers expressed concern about having to erect a rural mailbox.

**Response:**

Customers are not required to erect rural mailboxes. Customers may apply to receive PO Box service from the Forestport Post Office located 7.0 miles away or another location that is more convenient.

89. Concern (Unfavorable):  
Customers were concerned about having to travel to another Post Office for service.

Services provided at the Post Office will be available from the carrier, and customers will not have to travel to another Post Office for service. Most transactions do not require meeting the carrier at the mailbox. Stamps by Mail and Money Order Application forms are available for customer convenience. Stamps are also available at many stores and gas stations where customers may already shop, online at usps.com, or by calling 1-800-STAMP-24.

90. **Concern (Unfavorable):**

No Concern

Response:

91. **Concern (Unfavorable):**

You were concerned about having to travel to another post office for service

Response:

Services provided at the post office will be available from the carrier, and customers will not have to travel to another post office for service. Most transactions do not require meeting the carrier at the mailbox. Stamps by Mail and Money Order Application forms are available for customer convenience.

**Nonpostal Concerns**

The following nonpostal concerns were expressed

1. **Concern (No Opinion):**

Customer expressed a concern about nonpostal services.

Response:

Nonpostal services provided at the Post Office will be available at the Forestport Post Office. Government forms normally provided by the Post Office will also be available at the Forestport Post Office or by contacting your local government agency.

2. **Concern (No Opinion):**

Customer expressed a concern about nonpostal services.

Response:

Nonpostal services provided at the Post Office will be available at the Forestport Post Office. Government forms normally provided by the Post Office will also be available at the Forestport Post Office or by contacting your local government agency.

3. **Concern (No Opinion):**

Customer expressed a concern about the loss of the community bulletin board at the Post Office.

Response:

Many retail outlets and grocery stores are now displaying a public bulletin board in which items can be posted for sale, and/or lost and found items can be posted, and a variety of other information. The administrative Post Office may have a public bulletin board which may be used to post the same information.

4. **Concern (No Opinion):**

Customer expressed a concern about the loss of the community bulletin board at the Post Office.

Response:

Many retail outlets and grocery stores are now displaying a public bulletin board in which items can be posted for sale, and/or lost and found items can be posted, and a variety of other information. The Forestport Post Office may have a public bulletin board which may be used to post the same information.

5. **Concern (No Opinion):**

Customer expressed a concern about the loss of the community bulletin board at the Post Office.

Response:

Many retail outlets and grocery stores are now displaying a public bulletin board in which items can be posted for sale, and/or lost and found items can be posted, and a variety of other information. The Forestport Post Office or Woodgate Library may have a public bulletin board which may be used to post the same information.

6. **Concern (No Opinion):**

Customer expressed a concern that the Fire Department leases the building to the Postal Service and in turn uses the lease money to purchase new equipment.

Response:

If a final decision is made to close the post office we will abide by the terms of the lease.

7. **Concern (No Opinion):**

Customers expressed concern for loss of community identity.

Response:

A community's identity derives from the interest and vitality of its residents and their use of its name. The Postal Service is helping to preserve community identity by continuing the use of the Community name and ZIP Code in addresses.

8. **Concern (No Opinion):**

Customers expressed concern for loss of community identity.

Response:

A community's identity derives from the interest and vitality of its residents and their use of its name. The Postal Service is helping to preserve community identity by continuing the use of the Community name and ZIP Code in addresses.

9. **Concern (No Opinion):**

Customers expressed concern over the apparent lack of interest by the Postal Service for the needs of the community.

Response:

The Postal Service is required to provide each community with regular and effective service, using the most cost efficient means possible. The proposed alternate delivery service will meet the mailing and service needs of the community in a more cost effective manner.

10. **Concern (No Opinion):**

Customers felt the loss of a Post Office would have a detrimental effect on the business community.

Response:

Businesses generally require regular and effective postal services, and these will always be provided to the community. Since the suspension of service, there has been no indication that the business community has been adversely affected. Questionnaire responses revealed that customers will continue to use local businesses if the Post Office is discontinued.

11. **Concern (No Opinion):**

Customers questioned the economic savings of the proposed discontinuance.

Response:

Carrier service can be and, in this case, is more cost-effective than maintaining a postal facility and a postmaster position. The Postal Service estimates an annual savings with this change.

12. **Concern (No Opinion):**

Customers were concerned about loss of employment in the community.

Response:

The postmaster position is vacant and there is no guarantee that any replacement postmaster would be from the community.

13. **Concern (No Opinion):**

Customers were concerned about the loss of a gathering place and an information center.

Response:

Residents may continue to meet informally, socialize, and share information at the other businesses, churches and residences in town.

14. **Concern (Unfavorable):**

Customer expressed a concern about nonpostal services.

**Response:**

Nonpostal services provided at the Post Office will be available at the Forestport Post Office. Government forms normally provided by the Post Office will also be available at the Forestport Post Office or by contacting your local government agency.

**15. Concern (UnFavorable):**

Customer expressed a concern about the loss of the community bulletin board at the Post Office.

**Response:**

Many retail outlets and grocery stores are now displaying a public bulletin board in which items can be posted for sale, and/or lost and found items can be posted, and a variety of other information. The administrative Post Office may have a public bulletin board which may be used to post the same information.

**16. Concern (UnFavorable):**

Customer expressed a concern about the loss of the community bulletin board at the Post Office.

**Response:**

Many retail outlets and grocery stores are now displaying a public bulletin board in which items can be posted for sale, and/or lost and found items can be posted, and a variety of other information. The Forestport Post Office may have a public bulletin board which may be used to post the same information.

DOCKET NO. 1388180-13494  
ITEM NO. 41  
PAGE 1

Date of Posting: 05/25/2011

Posting Round Date:

Date of Removal: 07/26/2011

Removal Round Date:

PROPOSAL TO CLOSE  
THE WOODGATE, NY POST OFFICE  
AND EXTEND  
SERVICE BY RURAL ROUTE SERVICE  
(REVISED)

DOCKET NUMBER 1388180 - 13494

## I. RESPONSIVENESS TO COMMUNITY POSTAL NEEDS

The Postal Service is proposing to close the Woodgate, NY Post Office and provide delivery and retail services by rural route service under the administrative responsibility of the Forestport Post Office, located seven miles away.

The postmaster position became vacant when the postmaster retired on October 02, 2009. Since the postmaster vacancy an OIC has been installed to operate the office. Postmaster level and office service hours are determined by a workload analysis which includes the number of deliveries and revenue.

The office is being studied for possible closing or consolidation due to the following reasons: This is a management initiated study to determine if regular and effective service can be provided through alternate channels.

The Woodgate Post Office, an EAS-11 level, provides service from 08:00 to 12:00 and 13:00 to 16:45 Monday - Friday, 08:00 to 10:30 Saturday and lobby hours of 08:00 to 17:00 on Monday - Friday and 08:00 to 11:00 on Saturday to 126 post office box or general delivery customers and 96 delivery customers. Retail services included the sale of stamps, stamped paper, and money orders; special services such as Registered Mail, Certified Mail, Insured Mail, COD Mail, and Express Mail services; and the acceptance and dispatch of all classes of mail.

The retail window averaged 21 transaction(s) accounting for 25 minute(s) of retail workload daily. With minimal workload, the Postal Service feels that effective and regular service will be provided by rural route service. Office receipts for the last 3 years were: \$52,361 (137 revenue units) in FY 2008; \$45,198 (118 revenue units) in FY 2009; and \$35,957 (94 revenue units) in FY 2010. There were no permit mailer(s) or postage meter customer(s).

On May 12, 2011, representatives from the Postal Service were available at Woodgate Post Office lobby (Open House style format) to answer questions and provide information to customers. 94 customer(s) attended the meeting.

On May 03, 2011, 127 questionnaires were distributed to delivery customers of the Woodgate Post Office. Questionnaires were also available over the counter for retail customers at the Woodgate Post Office. 102 questionnaires were returned. Responses regarding the proposed alternate service were as follows: 4 favorable, 59 unfavorable, and 39 expressed no opinion.

A petition supporting the retention of the Woodgate Post Office was received on June 24, 2011, with 693 signatures. If this proposal is implemented, delivery and retail services will be provided by the Forestport Post Office, an EAS-15 level office. Window service hours at the Forestport Post Office are from 09:00 to 12:00 and 14:00 to 16:45, Monday through Friday, and 09:30 to 11:00 on Saturday. There are 431 post office boxes available.

The following concerns were expressed from questionnaires, the community meeting, from customer letters, on the petition, and from the congressional inquiry:

- |                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| 1. <b>Concern:</b> | Customer asked to reference the proximity of the Thendara, Old Forge, Eagle Bay and Inlet Post Office and delivery by boat to Lake residents on chart presented at community meeting.  |
| <b>Response:</b>   | The customer comment has been duly noted and the chart has been included in the official record.   |
| 2. <b>Concern:</b> | Customer expressed a concern about irregular hours that the rural route serves the community   |
| <b>Response:</b>   | Carriers strive to provide service at approximately the same time on a daily basis, however mail volumes and weather conditions often effect delivery times. If you desire special services from the rural carrier you may leave a note in your mailbox instructing the carrier to sound his horn, and then meet the carrier to receive services. Retail services may also be obtained at the Forestport post office located 7.0 miles away.   |
| 3. <b>Concern:</b> | Customer expressed a concern about package delivery and pickup.  |
| <b>Response:</b>   | Rural carriers will deliver packages that fit in your rural mail box, if the package does not fit in the mail box, the carrier will deliver the package up to ½ mile off of the line of travel, at a designated place, such as on your porch or under a carport. For carrier pick up of packages, you can contact the administrative Post Office, letting the carrier know that you have a package available for pick up. The carrier can deviate from the line of travel in order to receive packages. The rural carrier will accept letters, flats or packages up to 13 ounces for mailing. The carrier will estimate the cost and provide a receipt for any money received. On the following delivery day the carrier will provide change or a bill for the amount over the estimate. Packages over 13 ounces may be picked up if the postage was printed online or with a traceable meter. |
| 4. <b>Concern:</b> | Customer expressed a concern about seasonal residents using the Post Office daily.   |
| <b>Response:</b>   | Seasonal residents can also obtain street delivery.  |

5. **Concern:** Customer expressed a concern that summer residents had not returned to the area yet and would not have an opportunity to ask questions or raise concerns.
- Response:** There are a number of posting requirements and comment periods before any final decision or implementation would be made. All customers will have several opportunities to ask questions and make comments.
6. **Concern:** Customer expressed a concern that they requested and were denied rural delivery service.
- Response:** There are several guidelines which must be met prior to a road being approved for delivery. The road to be traveled must be maintained at all times of the year. It cannot dead end in a private driveway even if the drive is maintained by a municipality. There must be a suitable turning point provided for the carrier, preferably with no backing. If backing is involved, there are other guidelines to adhere to. If backing is necessitated, the Postmaster must verify it is in a low-traffic area and there are no children in the immediate vicinity on a regular basis. There must also be a minimum of one family per one-half mile of travel. If you have applied for and been denied an extension, you may wish to contact your local magistrate or other county official to determine if they can bring your road up to these standards. At that point, you may reapply for delivery.
7. **Concern:** Customer submitted 2 page letter titled Dear Uncle Sam.
- Response:** The letter has been entered into the official record.
8. **Concern:** Customer suggested consideration to close Alder Creek Post Office instead because the facility is located less than two miles from the Forestport Post Office and is less profitable; serving a smaller area.
- Response:** Post Office with an incumbent Postmaster can not be studied for discontinuance.
9. **Concern:** Customer suggested to save money set up small wind turbines atop Post Office across America, thus providing inexpensive energy and providing jobs to American workers.
- Response:** The customer's comments have been duly noted and added to the official record.
10. **Concern:** Customers asked why their Post Office was being discontinued while others were retained.
- Response:** Post Offices are reviewed on a case-by-case basis. When there is a vacancy in a small office, it is customary to conduct a study of the business activity and investigate the feasibility of providing service by alternate means.
11. **Concern:** Customers asked why their post office was being discontinued while others were retained.
- Response:** Post Offices are reviewed on a case-by-case basis. When there is a vacancy in a small office, it is customary to conduct a study of the business activity and investigate the feasibility of providing service by alternate means.
12. **Concern:** Customers expressed concern about having to erect a rural mailbox.
- Response:** Customers are not required to erect rural mailboxes. Customers may apply to receive PO Box service from the Forestport Post Office located 7.0 miles away or another location that is more convenient.
13. **Concern:** Customers expressed concern for those customers with disabilities who are not able to go to Forestport Post Office to pick up their mail.

**Response:**

Customers are not required to travel to another Post Office to receive mail or obtain retail services. These services will be provided by the carrier to a roadside mailbox located close to customers' residences. In hardship cases, delivery can be made to the home of a customer. Changes in the type of delivery are considered where service by existing methods would impose an extreme physical hardship for an individual customer. Any request for a change in delivery method must be submitted in writing to the Forestport postmaster.

**14. Concern:**

Customers expressed concern over the apparent lack of interest by the Postal Service for the needs of the community.

**Response:**

The Postal Service is required to provide each community with regular and effective service, using the most cost efficient means possible. The proposed alternate delivery service will meet the mailing and service needs of the community in a more cost effective manner.

**15. Concern:**

Customers expressed concern that postal employees at the Forestport Post Office are rude

**Response:**

Employee courtesy is always a concern of postal managers. Postal employees receive periodic instructions regarding employee courtesy. We do not condone our employees' execution of their duties in an unprofessional or discourteous manner. This concern will be conveyed to the postmaster by the manager, post office operations.

**16. Concern:**

Customers felt the post office should remain open since they paid taxes

**Response:**

The Postal Service is not supported by tax dollars and must meet expenses by revenue it generates. Operational savings for the Postal Service contributes in the long run to stable postage rates and savings for customers.

**17. Concern:**

Customers questioned the economic savings of the proposed discontinuance.

**Response:**

Carrier service can be and, in this case, is more cost-effective than maintaining a postal facility and a postmaster position. The Postal Service estimates an annual savings with this change.

**18. Concern:**

Customers said they would miss the special attention and assistance provided by the personnel at the Woodgate Post Office.

**Response:**

Courteous and helpful service will be provided by personnel at the Forestport Post Office and from the carrier. Special assistance will be provided as needed.

**19. Concern:**

Customers wanted to know why the customer lines were so long at the Forestport Post Office

**Response:**

The Forestport Post Office serves a much larger community and has a heavier retail window workload. This concern has been brought to the attention of the Forestport postmaster who can monitor window operations and ensure that customers do not have an unreasonable wait to obtain services. The carrier can provide retail services, alleviating the need for customers to go to the post office for service.

**20. Concern:**

Customers were concerned about growth in the community

**Response:**

The growth of a community does not depend on the location of a post office. Based on information obtained by the Postal Service, it was determined that there has been minimal growth in the area in recent years. Carrier service will be able to accommodate future growth.

**21. Concern:**

Customers were concerned about having to travel to another Post Office for service.

**Response:**

Services provided at the Post Office will be available from the carrier, and customers will not have to travel to another Post Office for service. Most transactions do not require meeting the carrier at the mailbox. Stamps by Mail and Money Order Application forms are available for customer convenience. Stamps are also available at many stores and gas stations where customers may already shop, online at usps.com, or by calling 1-800-STAMP-24. Based on customer feedback regarding cost associated with travel, the Postal Service is also reviewing the possibility of a Village Post Office. If applicable,

this would afford the community a chance to keep their PO Boxes in a centralized location within the community.

22. **Concern:** Customers were concerned about loss of employment in the community

**Response:** The postmaster position is vacant and there is no guarantee that any replacement postmaster would be from the community.

23. **Concern:** Customers were concerned about mail security.

**Response:** Customers may place a lock on their mailboxes. The mailbox must have a slot large enough to accommodate the customer's normal daily mail volume. The Postal Service does not open mailboxes which are locked and does not accept keys for this purpose.

24. **Concern:** Customers were concerned about obtaining services from the carrier.

**Response:** Most retail services provided at the post office are available from the carrier and do not require meeting the carrier at the mailbox. Stamps by Mail and Money Order Application forms are available for customer convenience. Listed below are some services available from the carrier and how to obtain them.

#### **PURCHASING STAMPS BY MAIL**

The Stamps by Mail Program provides customers the opportunity to purchase stamps, envelopes, and postal cards by using a Stamps by Mail order form, available from the post office or the carrier. Commemorative stamps and stamp collecting products are also available. The customer addresses the postage paid order form envelope, encloses payment by personal check or postal money order made payable to the US Postal Service, and mails the form (postage-free) or leaves it in the mailbox for the carrier to pick up. Most orders are processed overnight, and some immediately.

#### **PURCHASING POSTAL MONEY ORDERS**

Customers may purchase money orders by meeting the carrier at the mailbox, completing an application, and paying the carrier (in cash) the price of the money order, plus the fee. The carrier gives the customer a receipt for the application. The money order is completed when the carrier returns to the post office, and a money order receipt is left in the customer's mailbox on the next delivery day. Most customers provide the carrier with a stamped, self-addressed envelope in which the completed money order is mailed to its destination. If customers prefer, the completed money orders will be returned for verification on the next delivery day.

#### **SPECIAL SERVICES**

Special services such as certified, registered, Express Mail, delivery confirmation, signature confirmation, and COD may be obtained from the carrier by leaving a note in the mailbox, along with the appropriate payment. The carrier will provide the services that day and leave a customer receipt in the mailbox on the next delivery day.

#### **HOLDING MAIL**

Customers who will be away for an extended time, such as a vacation, may request that their mail be held at the post office during their absence. Upon return the customer asks the post office to resume delivery.

25. **Concern:** Customers were concerned about senior citizens.

**Response:** Carrier service is beneficial to many senior citizens and those who face special challenges because the carrier can provide delivery and retail services to roadside mailboxes or Centralized Box Units. Customers do not have to make a special trip to the Post Office for service. Special provisions are made for hardship cases or special customer needs. To request an exception for hardship delivery, customers may contact the Forestport postmaster for more information.

26. **Concern:** Customers were concerned about the mailboxes being damaged by snowplows

**Response:** Please contact the Forestport postmaster to determine the proper mailbox location and installation method that would help alleviate this concern. Placing the mailbox on a long, swinging, horizontal pipe is one method often used to avoid damage by snowplows.

27. **Concern:** Closing Post Office will drive customers to UPS or Fed Ex
- Response:** Adapting to changes in the communication landscape is not new. By the beginning of the 20th century, there were 76,945 Post Offices, one for about every thousand residents, in our growing nation. In 1902, however, Congress extended free delivery to rural areas. That meant it was no longer necessary for patrons to visit an office to send or pick up mail. Today, there are about 31,800 post offices that provide retail and delivery services to customers nationwide. While we have seen more competition in the package delivery system over time, the largest change for us comes with the internet. A December 2010 Pew Research survey indicates that 77 percent of adult Americans regularly use the internet, with 66 percent making purchases and 58 doing banking online. These trends continue to significantly change the amount of mail that the Postal Service processes, as evident by a decline of 4.5 percent in mail volume in the past year. In package delivery, we continue to work with some of our competitors to round out the services we all provide. For example, we partner with both FedEx and UPS to provide essential parcel return services that allow customers to return items to participating retailers. We work closely with FedEx as a partner in air transport of time-sensitive packages and cargo, which keeps our prices in line and attractive for new users. And, as Congress allows us greater flexibility in developing products, we are aggressively marketing new products — like the Flat Rate Priority Mail package — that sends more business our way.
28. **Concern:** Customer asked if one postmaster can manage multiple offices.
- Response:** Postmasters are fiscally responsible for one independent post office, and at times can oversee the administrative responsibilities for stations or branches of the independent post office.
29. **Concern:** Customer concern about cost of gas to travel to another Post Office
- Response:** With a workforce that travels 1.25 billion miles on the road each year in support of mail services, a growing fleet of environmentally responsible vehicles and a price structure that suffers \$1 million in added costs whenever gas prices bump up just one penny, the Postal Service is sensitive to concerns for gas prices and travel. We are expanding our options to include centralized delivery services in some locations. We have received a notice of interest from local establishments in your area regarding placement of centralized delivery units within the community, which could minimize the need to travel to retrieve mail.
30. **Concern:** Customer concerned about ability to obtain flat rate packaging, early morning and overnight mailing services, accountable mail services, and zip codes from carrier.
- Response:** Flat Rate Priority Boxes can be ordered free of charge at [www.usps.com](http://www.usps.com), and will be shipped to your address. Services provided at the Post Office will be available from the carrier, and customers will not have to travel to another Post Office for service. Most transactions do not require meeting the carrier at the mailbox. Stamps by Mail are available for customer convenience. Stamps are also available at many stores and gas stations where customers may already shop, online at [usps.com](http://usps.com), or by calling 1-800-STAMP-24. There are many other services available online at [usps.com](http://usps.com), including: find a zip code, calculate postage, print a shipping label, schedule a pickup, track and confirm, price comparison, ordering free shipping supplies, Change of Address, and hold mail request to name a few. For those who do not have/use a computer call 1-800 ASK USPS to get mailing prices, change of address, track and confirm, hold mail requests, request redelivery, delivery assistance, find hours and locations, get a zip code, passport information, and buy stamps.
31. **Concern:** Customer concerned about services afforded to camps.
- Response:** It is the understanding of the USPS that most of the camps in the area have been afforded rural service, but may choose to pick up mail at the Post Office. Personal requirements will vary and should be considered carefully.
32. **Concern:** Customer concerned about the ability of a Rural Carrier to hand cancel a particular piece of mail.
- Response:** Mail that required a hand cancellation can be requested from the carrier. When the carrier returns to the Post Office, it will receive the cancellation.

33. **Concern:** Customer concerned about Woodgate Post Office being part of the community for 135 years.
- Response:** The Postal Service is exploring alternate services that would maintain community identity and provide some retail service. The Village Post Office is one type of alternate service that may be feasible. A VPO performs the following "limited" functions: • Sells stamps Forever booklets (sold at face value) Must maintain established quantity and replenish • Provides Priority Flat Rate Boxes and Envelopes through small expedited package service display • Asks Hazmat/Aviation Security questions and stamps mailing with stamp provided (training provided by USPS) • Exterior Blue collection box provided • PO Boxes (Centralized Box Unit) - Customers retain current PO Box Address Casing of mail and rental done by carrier Redelivery by carrier the next day or Customer can retrieve at Main Post Office Signage on PO Box unit will address issues (rental, contents of box, etc), not the VPO contractor
34. **Concern:** Customer concerned with the reference that Forestport Post Office is 7.0 miles away.
- Response:** The Forestport Post Office is 7.0 miles away from Woodgate Post Office. Distance will be closer or further from each customer's residence.
35. **Concern:** Customer expressed a concern about mail theft from the mailbox.
- Response:** A questionnaire was sent to the postal inspection service concerning mail theft and vandalism in the Woodgate area. Their records indicate that there has not been any report of mail theft or vandalism in the area.
36. **Concern:** Customer expressed a concern about the cost savings obtained by the Postal Service from the closure of Post Offices. Quoting the PRC which said if the Postal Service closed 1000 Post Offices, it would only save 0.7% of the postal budget.
- Response:** The Postal Service has developed and begun implementing a range of cost-reducing initiatives. These include: consolidating operations, adjusting delivery routes, restructuring administrative and processing functions and closing district offices. We also have introduced several new products and services, including Priority Mail Flat Rate boxes and Adult Signature service, in an effort to grow revenue.
37. **Concern:** Customer expressed a concern regarding difficulty picking up mail if Post Office is closed.
- Response:** The Postal Service is also reviewing the possibility of a Village Post Office. If applicable, this would afford the community a chance to keep their PO Boxes in a centralized location within the community. If located outdoors, could afford 24 hour secured access to your mail.
38. **Concern:** Customer expressed a concern that they live on a private road. If they were to use rural delivery, they are concerned they would not hear the carrier's horn.
- Response:** Stamp purchases represent more than 85 percent of the Postal Service's retail sales. Today there are nearly 70,000 banks, ATMs, grocery stores, pharmacies and retail stores selling postal products and services located nationwide. That's more than double the number of Post Offices. In fact, nearly 35 percent of the Postal Service's revenue comes from locations other than Post Offices. Our online locator service — found at the Locate A Post Office tab at [www.usps.com](http://www.usps.com) — can help individuals select the location of post offices that best suit their regular routines or to find alternate locations to purchase stamps, when provision of stamps at a post office for by a letter carrier en route are not sufficient to meet a customer's need. Each day, approximately 1.1 million Americans will use the [usps.com](http://usps.com) website for services such as how to locate a post office. The top online requests include ZIP code look up and tracking packages. We believe placing the most requested postal product — stamps — in nearly 100,000 locations nationwide, partnered with the uninterrupted delivery of your mail and expanded online services, constitutes regular and effective access for postal customers. The Postal Service is also reviewing the possibility of a Village Post Office. If applicable, this would afford the community a chance to keep their PO Boxes in a centralized location within the community.

39. **Concern:** Customer expressed concern regarding having to travel to pick up prescriptions.
- Response:** Many health care plans offer incentives to utilize the "mail order" option on prescriptions filled via their mail order channel. Delivery can be made to mail box or PO Box.
40. **Concern:** Customer expressed dissatisfaction with governmental spending by Senators and Congressmen and questioned how they are trimming their own personal budgets.
- Response:** The USPS is self supported through the sale of postage, not tax dollars, unlike departments of the Federal Government. The USPS is taking several steps to reduce the deficit. Closing small offices is one step of many which are being examined and, depending on circumstances, initiated. Additionally, there are bills before Congress to address: overpaid pensions, 5 day delivery, and pre-funded Health Benefit Relief. The Postal Service has actively made reductions at all levels of the organization, including: a 20 % reduction in administrative positions, as well as reducing one Area and seven District offices
41. **Concern:** Customer expresses a concern that an individual Post Office can not be closed solely for economic reasons.
- Response:** By regulation, we do not close post offices based solely upon revenue figures. We look at several elements that include office workload, customer demand and availability of alternatives. Finances are a part of the data collected. Consistent application of these metrics gives us an even-handed approach to studying offices around the nation.
42. **Concern:** Customer feels that cost savings have to come from the top down.
- Response:** The Postal Service has developed and begun implementing a range of cost-reducing initiatives. These include: consolidating operations, adjusting delivery routes, restructuring administrative and processing functions and closing district offices. We also have introduced several new products and services, including Priority Mail Flat Rate boxes and Adult Signature service, in an effort to grow revenue. The Postal Service of the future will be smaller, leaner and more competitive. But it will continue to drive commerce, service communities and deliver value. As a self-supporting government enterprise, the Postal Service receives no tax dollars. It relies solely on the sale of postage, products and services to pay for operating expenses. Revenue generation is a matter of business survival
43. **Concern:** Customer felt that postal workers unions should be carefully reviewed before considering closing any post office.
- Response:** The Postal Service continues to cut costs significantly with initiatives to reduce the size of its labor force, the number of mail processing facilities and administrative overhead. Over the last four fiscal years, the Postal Service has reduced its size by 110,000 career positions and saved \$12 billion in costs. The Postal Service also is generating new revenue by opening cost-effective new retail locations in places where people already shop, including grocery stores, drug stores and office supply stores, and introducing other new product and pricing initiatives. Despite significant cost reductions in areas within its control, and even with this emergency action, the Postal Service needs Congress to enact legislation that would do the following to return the Postal Service to financial stability: • Eliminate the current mandates requiring retiree health benefit pre-payments. • Allow the Postal Service to access Civil Service Retirement System and FERS overpayments. • Give the Postal Service the authority to determine the frequency of mail delivery.
44. **Concern:** Customer felt the decision has already been made to close Woodgate.
- Response:** No final decision has been made. At the end of the 60-day comment period, additional review is made at lower and upper levels of postal management. When a final decision is made at Postal Headquarters in Washington, DC, that decision is posted in affected Post Offices for 30 days, during which customers may appeal the decision to the Postal Regulatory Commission in Washington, DC. The Postal Regulatory Commission has 120 days to consider and decide an appeal. Even without an appeal, no Post Office may be closed sooner than 60 days after the public posting of the final decision.

45. **Concern:** Customer has a street address and stated that mail delivery presently is dependable and timely. Customer is concerned that with changes proposed would hamper mail delivery.
- Response:** Customer currently has street delivery, and should experience no change to that service.
46. **Concern:** Customer inquired about Hold Mail service.
- Response:** Heading out for a few days? Whether you are on vacation or an unexpected business trip you can rest easy knowing your mail is safely held for you at your local Post Office. This online service will electronically notify your local Post Office to hold your mail. For same day service, online requests must be submitted by 2AM CST Monday - Saturday. Mail can be held from 3 to 30 days. We will resume normal delivery of your mail on the date you specify. A Hold Mail may be requested up to 14 calendar days in advance. Online access to request this service is currently limited to certain ZIP Codes. Hold Mail request forms are also available from your carrier or Post Office. Taking a long vacation? Or an out-of-town assignment? Make sure you don't miss any bills or other important mail. Premium Forwarding Service® may be the solution that is right for you.
47. **Concern:** Customer inquired if there are protocols or regulations that preclude keeping the PO boxes where they are without a retail presence.
- Response:** Our customer's habits have made it clear they no longer require a physical post office to conduct most of their postal business. More and more of them are choosing to conduct their postal business online, on their smart phone and at their shopping destinations. And that means the need for us to maintain nearly 32,000 retail offices has diminished. So we are taking the next step in right-sizing our retail network by studying approximately 3,700 retail offices to determine customer needs. As part of this study, we are introducing a retail-replacement option — Village Post Offices — as an option for affected communities. Village Post Offices would be operated by local businesses, such as pharmacies, grocery stores and other appropriate retailers, and would offer popular postal products and services such as stamps and flat-rate packaging.
48. **Concern:** Customer questioned how is a customer suppose to transact business with a carrier when the customer pays by credit card?
- Response:** The customer probably have seen your rural letter carrier at work, driving alongside the road, mailbox to mailbox, picking up, and delivering the mail. What you may not have seen, however, is the range and quality of services they provide. In addition to picking up and delivering your mail, they • Pick up and deliver parcels, and Priority Mail and Express Mail items. • Sells stamps and Postal Money Orders. • Accept and deliver Registered Mail, Certified Mail, and Insured Mail items. • Accept payment for Collect on Delivery (COD) packages. To order stamps, postal cards, or stamped envelopes, just ask your rural letter carrier for a Stamp Purchase Order form. It comes with its own envelope. Rural carriers accept cash, checks and money orders. Credit card users can buy stamps by telephone for a small handling fee. Credit card users can dial 800-STAMP-24 (800-782-6724). Regionally, some banks and credit unions — such as Key Bank around New York — offer stamps through ATMs. A fee may apply. Credit cards are also accepted for purchases at [www.usps.com](http://www.usps.com). Postal money orders may not be purchased with a credit card at any time, although post offices can negotiate money orders using debit cards.
49. **Concern:** Customer questioned how perishable items that shouldn't freeze are handled.
- Response:** Carriers will use deliver the parcels endorsed "perishable" if it can be left at a delivery point without potential damage to the contents (such as fruit in winter). If it can not be left at the delivery point, a second attempt to deliver is made only if requested by the addressee. A second notice is sent if the parcel is not called for after 5 days. If the parcel remains unclaimed 10 days after the first delivery attempt or the retention period specified by the mailer, the parcel is handled according to POM 68, Undeliverable Mail.
50. **Concern:** Customer questioned if it will take more time for the carrier to do their route.

**Response:** The carrier already travels most of the roads in Woodgate. Almost all customers that currently have PO Box service, have rural delivery afforded to them.

51. **Concern:** Customer questioned reason for cut in services.

**Response:** As more customers choose to conduct their postal business online, on their smart phones and at their favorite shopping destinations, the need for the U.S. Postal Service to maintain its nearly 32,000 retail offices — the largest retail network in the country — diminishes. To that end, the U.S. Postal Service is taking the next step in right-sizing its expansive retail network by conducting studies of retail offices to determine customer needs. As part of this effort, the Postal Service also introduced a retail-replacement option for affected communities around the nation. "Today, more than 35 percent of the Postal Service's retail revenue comes from expanded access locations such as grocery stores, drug stores, office supply stores, retail chains, self-service kiosks, ATMs and usps.com, open 24/7," said Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe. "Our customer's habits have made it clear that they no longer require a physical post office to conduct most of their postal business."

52. **Concern:** Customer questioned the additional cost factors associated with the proposed rural carrier service.

**Response:** Carrier service can be and, in this case, is more cost-effective than maintaining a postal facility and a postmaster position. The Postal Service estimates an annual savings with this change. Rural carrier service is already available to most locations in the Woodgate community. The estimated savings of \$ 57,479 annually, less the annual cost of replacement (rural) service - \$ 14,987, nets a positive total annual savings of \$ 42,492 as stated in the proposal.

53. **Concern:** Customer questions ability to challenge independently the financial problems of the USPS.

**Response:** Information regarding the current financial crisis of the Postal Service is readily available on [www.usps.com](http://www.usps.com). The Postal Service continues to face the challenge of significantly reduced revenue resulting from the dramatic loss in mail volume and the decline in First-Class Mail that began in 2008. Mail volume losses are a result of the economic recession and the continued electronic diversion of mail. On January 7, PMG Pat Donahoe announced the beginning of an organizational redesign that will help streamline the Postal Service. The announcement included a 16-percent reduction in the officer ranks of the Postal Service and the impending closure of the Southeast Area. The Postal Service continues to cut costs significantly with initiatives to reduce the size of its labor force, the number of mail processing facilities and administrative overhead. Over the last four fiscal years, the Postal Service has reduced its size by 110,000 career positions and saved \$12 billion in costs. The Postal Service also is generating new revenue by opening cost-effective new retail locations in places where people already shop, including grocery stores, drug stores and office supply stores, and introducing other new product and pricing initiatives. Despite significant cost reductions in areas within its control, and even with this emergency action, the Postal Service needs Congress to enact legislation that would do the following to return the Postal Service to financial stability: • Eliminate the current mandates requiring retiree health benefit pre-payments. • Allow the Postal Service to access Civil Service Retirement System and FERS overpayments. • Give the Postal Service the authority to determine the frequency of mail delivery.

54. **Concern:** Customer requested guarantee in writing that the Postal Service would not take away their rural delivery service as part of a future cost cutting plan.

**Response:** No one can predict the future with 100% certainty, however, the probability is that rural service would not be removed as part of a future cost cutting plan. Carrier service can be and, in this case, is more cost-effective than maintaining a postal facility and a postmaster position. The Postal Service estimates an annual savings with this change.

55. **Concern:** Customer stated that if the Post Office closes, they will use the internet to conduct business.

**Response:**

Consumer needs have changed — dramatically. Customers now receive and pay bills online and communicate by e-mail and text message. They demand easier, more convenient access to Postal products and services when and where they want them — online, on their smart phones and at the stores they frequent. First-Class Mail declines are driven mainly by customers making fewer bill payments by mail, companies sending out fewer hard-copy statements and financial institutions migrating to online transactions. The recent recession significantly sped up this trend. We expect this shift in the mix of mail to continue as the digital world expands and customer habits shift accordingly. Trends also moved downward for Periodicals (newspapers and magazines), as consumers receive fewer hard-copy publications. We do not believe these trends are influenced by numbers of post offices but, rather, by the migration of materials to the internet and to new technologies in the market.

**56. Concern:**

Customer stated that since the PO is only approx. 100 yds. from the main Route 28, it is simple to drop off and pick up mail on the trucks way north or south.

**Response:**

Statement regarding PO being approx. 100 yds. from the main Route 28, is simple to drop off and pick up mail on the trucks way north or south has been added to the record.

**57. Concern:**

Customer stated the necessity for stopping raises.

**Response:**

Postal Service is moving forward with two new cash conservation initiatives effective July 1, 2011. They are: 1. Suspension of discretionary awards for FY 2011. 2. Freezing of Postal Service officer and executive compensation as it relates to the Postal Service's pay-for-performance program. The award program for employee recognition and incentive awards is suspended until further notice and applies to all Executive Administrative Schedule (EAS) — administrative and managerial positions — and Postal Career Executive Service (PCES) — senior managers. This prohibits awarding cash, cash equivalent and non-cash tangible items intended for employee recognition.

**58. Concern:**

Customer stated the savings would be so minimal that the proposal is not necessary.

**Response:**

The Postal Service estimates a very conservative savings of \$42,492 annually. As more customers choose to conduct their postal business online, on their smart phones and at their favorite shopping destinations, the need for the U.S. Postal Service to maintain its nearly 32,000 retail offices — the largest retail network in the country — diminishes. To that end, the U.S. Postal Service is taking the next step in right-sizing its expansive retail network by conducting studies of retail offices to determine customer needs. As part of this effort, the Postal Service also introduced a retail-replacement option for affected communities around the nation. "Today, more than 35 percent of the Postal Service's retail revenue comes from expanded access locations such as grocery stores, drug stores, office supply stores, retail chains, self-service kiosks, ATMs and usps.com, open 24/7," said Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe. "Our customer's habits have made it clear that they no longer require a physical post office to conduct most of their postal business."

**59. Concern:**

Customer stated they were in favor of no rural delivery in favor of Boxes at Post Office.

**Response:**

The Postal Service is required to provide one free form of delivery. When street delivery is not feasible, customers are afforded no-fee PO Box service. The Postal Service is also reviewing the possibility of a Village Post Office. If applicable, this would afford the community a chance to keep their PO Boxes in a centralized location within the community.

**60. Concern:**

Customer submitted Resolution opposing the closing of the Woodgate Post Office as a cost cutting measure, and questions the additional cost factors associated with the proposed rural carrier service.

**Response:**

Customers Resolutions has been added to the official record. Carrier service can be and, in this case, is more cost-effective than maintaining a postal facility and a postmaster position. The Postal Service estimates an annual savings with this change. Rural carrier service is already available to most locations in the Woodgate community. The estimated savings of \$ 57,479 annually, less the annual cost of replacement (rural) service - \$ 14,987, nets a positive total annual savings of \$ 42,492 as stated in the proposal.

61. **Concern:** Customer suggested charging a fee for rural delivery
- Response:** The Postal Service is required to provide one free form of delivery. When street delivery is not feasible, customers are afforded no-fee PO Box service
62. **Concern:** Customer suggested closing the post office on Saturdays.
- Response:** The Senate subcommittee chairman introduced a bill that addresses the financial issues confronting the Postal Service. Among other provisions, the proposal authorizes a transition to a 5-day delivery schedule. At this stage, it is still a bill.
63. **Concern:** Customer suggested reducing hours at the Post Office rather than closing it.
- Response:** The study to close was initiated to determine if effective and regular service can be provided by a more cost-effective alternate service. Expenditures such as salary, benefits, and lease, to name a few would be much larger cost savings when alternate services are available. Reducing hours to part time would require proposing to change the independent post office to a station/branch. We are also exploring the feasibility of centralized delivery.
64. **Concern:** Customer suggested that proper insulation of building would reduce cost of heating; use saving from a lack of Postmaster to upgrade building.
- Response:** Carrier service can be and, in this case, is more cost-effective than maintaining a postal facility and a postmaster position. The Postal Service estimates an annual savings with this change.
65. **Concern:** Customer suggested to postpone closing procedures until H.R. 1351, the USPS Pension Obligation Recalculation and Restoration Act of 2011 is complete and nearly 7 billion dollars from the pension fund are recovered.
- Response:** As more customers choose to conduct their postal business online, on their smart phones and at their favorite shopping destinations, the need for the U.S. Postal Service to maintain its nearly 32,000 retail offices — the largest retail network in the country — diminishes. To that end, the U.S. Postal Service is taking the next step in right-sizing its expansive retail network by conducting studies of retail offices to determine customer needs. As part of this effort, the Postal Service also introduced a retail-replacement option for affected communities around the nation. "Today, more than 35 percent of the Postal Service's retail revenue comes from expanded access locations such as grocery stores, drug stores, office supply stores, retail chains, self-service kiosks, ATMs and usps.com, open 24/7," said Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe. "Our customer's habits have made it clear that they no longer require a physical post office to conduct most of their postal business." The Postal Service continues to cut costs significantly with initiatives to reduce the size of its labor force, the number of mail processing facilities and administrative overhead. Over the last four fiscal years, the Postal Service has reduced its size by 110,000 career positions and saved \$12 billion in costs. The Postal Service also is generating new revenue by opening cost-effective new retail locations in places where people already shop, including grocery stores, drug stores and office supply stores, and introducing other new product and pricing initiatives. Despite significant cost reductions in areas within its control, and even with this emergency action, the Postal Service needs Congress to enact legislation that would do the following to return the Postal Service to financial stability: • Eliminate the current mandates requiring retiree health benefit pre-payments. • Allow the Postal Service to access Civil Service Retirement System and FERS overpayments. • Give the Postal Service the authority to determine the frequency of mail delivery.
66. **Concern:** Customer that already has a street address was concerned about having to change everything connected with it.
- Response:** Customers that already have Woodgate street delivery WILL NOT be required to change their address.
67. **Concern:** Customer was concerned about cluster box service being a hardship.
- Response:** Proposed "centralized delivery" was an option for current PO Box customers to be able to retain their PO Box address and receive delivery in Woodgate, rather than travel to Forestport.

68. **Concern:** Customers asked what other ways USPS was trying to make up the deficit, other than closing their post office.
- Response:** Closing small offices is one step of many which are being examined and, depending on circumstances, initiated. Additionally, there are bills before Congress to address: overpaid pensions, 5 day delivery, and pre-funded Health Benefit Relief. The Postal Service has actively made reductions at all levels of the organization, including: a 20 % reduction in administrative positions, as well as reducing one Area and seven District offices.
69. **Concern:** Customers felt inclement weather and poor road conditions might impede delivery.
- Response:** Both inclement weather and heavy mail volume can cause deviations from the normal delivery schedule. However, the carrier is required to provide a vehicle of adequate size, equipped with necessary equipment (chains or snow tires, warning lights or signs, etc.) to serve the route safely and efficiently and in accordance with federal, state, and local motor vehicle laws and regulations.
70. **Concern:** Customers inquired about mailbox installation and maintenance.
- Response:** Customers are responsible for mailbox installation and maintenance. Mailboxes must be placed so that they may be safely and conveniently served by the carrier and must be located on the right-hand side of the road in the direction of the carrier's travel. Mailbox supports should conform to state laws and highway regulations. The Postal Service recommends that customers contact the Forestport postmaster or carrier for advice on placement of mailboxes and mailbox height and supports.
71. **Concern:** Customers were concerned why the postmaster position was not filled.
- Response:** All management positions were frozen in anticipation of the reorganization efforts.
72. **Concern:** Customers were concerned about a possible address change.
- Response:** Customers who retain their PO Box or currently have street delivery WILL NOT be required to change their address. ONLY customers electing to close their PO Box and begin street delivery would be required to change their address, if a final determination is made to close or consolidate this office. 911 addresses are generally given by the county's 911 coordinator. The Postal Service does not establish 911 addresses. Any questions concerning your 911 address should be directed to the county's 911 coordinator.
73. **Concern:** Customers were concerned about having to make an address change on their bank checks and stationery.
- Response:** Customers will be assigned a carrier route address. The new address will continue to use the community name and ZIP Code. Mail will be forwarded in accordance with postal regulations, and change of address forms are available online at usps.com or from the Postal Service to assist customers in notifying correspondents of the change. Customers may deplete their current supply of checks and stationery and make the address corrections when ordering new supplies.
74. **Concern:** Customers were concerned about later delivery of mail.
- Response:** The top priority of the Postal Service is to provide mail service in the most efficient manner possible because all of our costs are reflected in postage rates customers must pay. Delivery costs are one of our biggest expenses, so you can be assured that careful thought is given to the structure of each route. A customer's location on a carrier's line of travel determines the time of day mail is delivered. This, of course, precludes providing early delivery of mail to every customer because, no matter how we structure a route, somebody must be last. We do, however, carefully consider the volume of mail for each route so that we can deliver the greatest amount of mail at the earliest possible hour. With the largest fleet of delivery vehicles in the world, to minimize vehicle and fuel expenses we must also pay special attention to energy conservation measures. When the price of gasoline goes up one cent per gallon our total gasoline cost rises more than \$1 million. Therefore, when structuring a route, we must balance our goal to deliver as much mail as possible as early as

possible with the need to minimize the travel distance a route must cover. We do regret the inconvenience to customers who would like, but cannot receive, early mail delivery. For those customers we offer alternative delivery services, such as Post Office box service that provide access to their mail earlier and throughout the day.

75. **Concern:** Customers were concerned about mail security for medicine.

**Response:** Many health care plans offer incentives to utilize the "mail order" option on prescriptions filled via their mail order channel. Delivery can be made to mail box or PO Box. Customers may place a lock on their mailboxes. The mailbox must have a slot large enough to accommodate the customer's normal daily mail volume. The Postal Service does not open mailboxes which are locked and does not accept keys for this purpose.

76. **Concern:** Customers were concerned about permit mailing.

**Response:** Administrative responsibility for the permit account will be or has been transferred to the Forestport Post Office. Mailings must be submitted to that office for verification. Customers interested in obtaining a permit should contact the Forestport postmaster.

77. **Concern:** Customers were concerned about the quality of service, reliability, and integrity of the contractor.

**Response:** Award of the contract is based on evaluation of criteria including annual monetary amount, contractor ability and background, and the quality and location of the facility. The successful bidder must be bonded and will be trained, administered, and supervised by the Postal Service to ensure high standards of service.

78. **Concern:** Financial Data

**Response:** Financial data is considered proprietary information during the study phase. If a proposal to close an office is posted, financial data pertaining to that proposal will be disclosed on the proposal.

79. **Concern:** How is service "regular and effective" when customers have to travel further to conduct certain transactions not afforded by carrier?

**Response:** Stamp purchases represent more than 85 percent of the Postal Service's retail sales. Today there are nearly 70,000 banks, ATMs, grocery stores, pharmacies and retail stores selling postal products and services located nationwide. That's more than double the number of Post Offices. In fact, nearly 35 percent of the Postal Service's revenue comes from locations other than Post Offices. Our online locator service — found at the Locate A Post Office tab at [www.usps.com](http://www.usps.com) — can help individuals select the location of post offices that best suit their regular routines or to find alternate locations to purchase stamps, when provision of stamps at a post office for by a letter carrier en route are not sufficient to meet a customer's need. Each day, approximately 1.1 million Americans will use the [usps.com](http://usps.com) website for services such as how to locate a post office. The top online requests include ZIP code look up and tracking packages. We believe placing the most requested postal product — stamps — in nearly 100,000 locations nationwide, partnered with the uninterrupted delivery of your mail and expanded online services, constitutes regular and effective access for postal customers.

80. **Concern:** July 26, 2001 Memo to the record

**Response:** Received 52 (42 business, 10 non-profit) statements from the Woodgate Citizens Committee regarding closure of the office would affect business operations, requiring new business forms, bank checks, and operating invoices. Each and every one is a mom-and-pop owner-operated enterprise with an average staff of 2-7 persons. They do not have the time or the personnel to travel 18-20 miles to an out-of the town post office on a daily basis.

81. **Concern:** June 15, 2011 Memo to the record

**Response:** The attached newspaper article "Woodgate Fights Being Lost in the Mail" published in The Post-Standard; Sunday, June 12, 2011 was received and added to the official record.

82. **Concern:** June 15, 2011 Memo to the record.
- Response:** Received a letter from James & Brigid Matteson stating they own property on Route 28, Town of Forestport, County of Oneida, Hamlet of Woodgate, NY 13494, about ½ mile from the Woodgate Post Office and would like to provide assistance for alternate postal access at their business which has ample space, extensive parking and the wherewithal to staff. They can be contacted at PO Box 172, Woodgate, NY 13494. No phone number was provided. On 06/17/11, a letter was sent informing the customer that I will follow up with the VPO contact. An email was sent to Nadine Tremblay, Michelle Krul, Margaret Pepe, Linda Moak, and Sue Nielsen with the information for VPO contact.
83. **Concern:** June 15, 2011 Memo to the record:
- Response:** The attached newspaper article "Greetings from Woodgate. Don't stamp us out" published in the Daily Sentinel dated Saturday, May 14, 2011 was received and added to the official record.
84. **Concern:** June 27, 2011 Memo to the record
- Response:** On 06/24/11 a petition with 693 signatures requesting the Postal Service not close the Woodgate Post Office and to reappoint a postmaster was received from Woodgate Citizens Committee. On 06/27/11, an acknowledgement was mailed to Woodgate Citizens Committee, PO Box 52, Woodgate, NY 13494-0052 informing Woodgate Citizens Committee the petition and was received and has been added to the official record.
85. **Concern:** Suggestion to shorten hours to save money
- Response:** Part of our obligation to study expenses includes an assessment of our infrastructure. The Postal Service spends nearly \$2 billion on building expenses to operate its real estate inventory of more than 34,000 facilities. In 1970, with passage of the Postal Reorganization Act, the old Post Office Department was transformed into the U.S. Postal Service. At that time more than 2,000 facilities served as our primary, outgoing mail processing locations. Today, that number has been reduced to less than 300. As mailing habits of the nation change, we must consider the careful, but continuous streamlining of our retail facility footprint as well. For all postal facilities, annual net rental costs exceed \$1 billion. This expense reflects the fact that almost three-quarters of Postal Service facilities are leased. As we study facilities to take out of our network, we look at leasing costs as well as ancillary costs like utilities. We have an aggressive energy conservation program in place at all of our facilities and the Postal Service estimates that it has already saved around \$400 million in facility energy costs since 2006. Shorter hours at leased facilities reduce, but do not eliminate, pressures on our overhead expenses as we need at this time
86. **Concern:** You were concerned about having to travel to another post office for service.
- Response:** Services provided at the post office will be available from the carrier, and customers will not have to travel to another post office for service. Most transactions do not require meeting the carrier at the mailbox. Stamps by Mail and Money Order Application forms are available for customer convenience.
87. **Concern:** Customer expressed a concern about their 911 address
- Response:** 911 addresses are generally given by the county's 911 coordinator. The Postal Service does not establish 911 addresses. Any questions concerning your 911 address should be directed to the county's 911 coordinator.
88. **Concern:** Customers felt inclement weather and poor road conditions might impede delivery
- Response:** Both inclement weather and heavy mail volume can cause deviations from the normal delivery schedule. However, the carrier is required to provide a vehicle of adequate size, equipped with necessary equipment (chains or snow tires, warning lights or signs, etc.) to serve the route safely and efficiently and in accordance with federal, state, and local motor vehicle laws and regulations.
89. **Concern:** Customers were concerned about obtaining accountable mail and large parcels

**Response:**

If you live less than one-half mile from the line of travel, the carrier will attempt delivery of accountable items and large parcels to the customer's residence. If the live over one-half mile away or is not home when delivery is attempted, a notice will be left in the mailbox. Large parcels will be left outside the mailbox or at a designated location or a notice will be left in the mailbox. Attempted delivery items will be taken back to the Forestport Post Office. Customers may pick up the item at the post office, request redelivery on another day or authorize delivery to another party.

**Some advantages of the proposal are:**

1. The rural or contract delivery carrier may provide retail services, alleviating the need to go to the post office. Stamps by Mail order forms are provided for customer convenience.
2. Customers opting for carrier service will have 24-hour access to their mail.
3. Savings for the Postal Service contribute in the long run to stable postage rates and savings for customers.
4. CBUs can offer the security of individually locked mail compartments. Parcel lockers provide convenient parcel delivery for customers.
5. Customers opting for carrier service will not have to pay post office box fees.
6. Saves time and energy for customers who drive to the post office to pick up mail.

**Some disadvantages of the proposal are:**

1. The loss of a retail outlet and a postmaster position in the community. Retail services may be provided by the rural or contract delivery carrier.
2. Meeting the rural or contract delivery carrier at the box to transact business. However, it is not necessary to be present to conduct most Postal Service transactions.
3. A change in the mailing address. The community name will continue to be used in the new address. A carrier route address will be assigned.

Taking all available information into consideration, the Postal Service concludes this proposal will provide a maximum degree of effective and regular postal services to the community.

## **II. EFFECT ON COMMUNITY**

Woodgate is an unincorporated community located in Oneida County. The community is administered politically by none known. Police protection is provided by the Remsen State Police. Fire protection is provided by the Woodgate Fire Department. The community is comprised of retirees, commuters, self-employed, and those who commute to work at nearby communities and work in local businesses.

Businesses and organizations include: Church, Adirondacks, Adirondack Grocery, Adirondack White Lake Association, Back to Basics Dog Kennels, Bear Creek Carpentry, Boy Scouts of America (Camp Russell), Creekside Gift and Antiques, Camp Turk, Camp Nazareth, Countryside Vet Clinic, Family Solutions, Gary Ramsey Guide Service, Jerry's Small Engine Repairs, KevAnne's Coffee and Gift Shop, Kratzenberg's Masonary, Kratzenberg's Stucco, Lake and Country Construction, Little Long Lake Campers Assoc, Lou's Electrical and Plumbing, Mattson's Produce and Cabins, Natur's Treasures, No Two Alike, North Country Cabins, North Country Communications, North country Scooters, Quilted in the Woods, P&J Construction, Season's Cafe and Cabins, Stumble Inn, Thendara Automative, UpNorth Bail, Upstate Power Washing, Walker Consulting, White Lake Inn, White Lake Antiques, White Lake Lodges, White Lake Fish and Game Club, White Lake Polaris, White Lake Creations, Woodgate Storage, Woodgate International, Woodgate Volunteer Fire Department, Woodgate Library. Residents may travel to nearby communities for other supplies and services.

Nonpostal services provided at the Woodgate Post Office will be available at the Forestport Post Office. Government forms normally provided by the Post Office will also be available at the Forestport Post Office or by contacting your local government agency.

The following nonpostal concerns were expressed from questionnaires, the community meeting, on the petition, and on the congressional inquiry:

- |                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| 1. <b>Concern:</b> | Customer expressed a concern about the library sharing the water well and supply with the post office and therefore closure would require a new well.   |
| <b>Response:</b>   | Per the lease agreement, this is the responsibility of the lessor.  |
| 2. <b>Concern:</b> | Customer expressed a concern about the loss of the community bulletin board at the Post Office.   |
| <b>Response:</b>   | Many retail outlets and grocery stores are now displaying a public bulletin board in which items can be posted for sale, and/or lost and found items can be posted, and a variety of other information. |
| 3. <b>Concern:</b> | Customer expressed a concern that the Fire Department leases the building to the Postal Service and in turn uses the lease money to purchase new equipment.   |
| <b>Response:</b>   | If a final decision is made to close the post office we will abide by the terms of the lease.   |
| 4. <b>Concern:</b> | Customer submitted a map for the official record.   |

**Response:** The map has been entered into the record.

5. **Concern:** Customers expressed concern for loss of community identity.

**Response:** A community's identity derives from the interest and vitality of its residents and their use of its name. The Postal Service is helping to preserve community identity by continuing the use of the Community name and ZIP Code in addresses.

6. **Concern:** Customers felt the loss of a post office would have a detrimental effect on the business community.

**Response:** Businesses generally require regular and effective postal services, and these will always be provided to the Woodgate Post Office community. There is no indication that the business community will be adversely affected. Questionnaire responses revealed that customers will continue to use local businesses if the post office is discontinued.

7. **Concern:** Customers questioned the economic savings of the proposed discontinuance.

**Response:** Carrier service can be and, in this case, is more cost-effective than maintaining a postal facility and a postmaster position. The Postal Service estimates an annual savings with this change.

8. **Concern:** Customers were concerned about the loss of a gathering place and an information center.

**Response:** Residents may continue to meet informally, socialize, and share information at the other businesses, churches and residences in town.

9. **Concern:** With the loss of income, from the lease to the fire department, the local taxpayers will have to make the difference to finance emergency services for the community.

**Response:** If a final decision is made to close the post office we will abide by the terms of the lease.

10. **Concern:** Customer expressed a concern about nonpostal services.

**Response:** Nonpostal services provided at the Post Office will be available at the Forestport Post Office. Government forms normally provided by the Post Office will also be available at the Forestport Post Office or by contacting your local government agency.

11. **Concern:** Customers were concerned about loss of employment in the community.

**Response:** The postmaster position is vacant and there is no guarantee that any replacement postmaster would be from the community.

Based on the information obtained in the course of this discontinuance study, the Postal Service concludes this proposal will not adversely affect the community.

### III. EFFECT ON EMPLOYEES

The postmaster position became vacant when the postmaster retired on October 02, 2009. The noncareer postmaster relief (PMR) may be separated from the Postal Service. No other Postal Service employee will be adversely affected. Since the postmaster vacancy an OIC has been installed to operate the office.

### IV. ECONOMIC SAVINGS

The Postal Service estimates an annual savings of \$ 42,492 with a breakdown as follows:

Postmaster Salary (EAS-11, No COLA)	\$ 33,168
Fringe Benefits @ 33.5%	\$ 11,111
Annual Lease Costs	<u>+ \$ 13,200</u>
Total Annual Costs	\$ 57,479
Less Annual Cost of Replacement Service	<u>- \$ 14,987</u>
Total Annual Savings	<u>\$ 42,492</u>

### V. OTHER FACTORS

The Postal Service has identified no other factors for consideration.

### VI. SUMMARY

The Postal Service is proposing to close the Woodgate, NY Post Office and provide delivery and retail services by rural route service under the administrative responsibility of the Forestport Post Office, located seven miles away.

The postmaster retired on October 02, 2009. If the office has a noncareer PMR(s), they may be separated from the Postal Service; however, attempts will be made to reassign the employee(s) to a nearby facility. No other employee(s) will be adversely affected. Post office workload has declined. Effective and regular service will continue to be provided by rural route service.

The Woodgate Post Office provided delivery and retail service to 126 PO Box or general delivery customers and 96 delivery route customers. The daily retail window transactions averaged 21. There are no permit mailers or postage meter customers.

There will no longer be a retail outlet in the community. However, delivery and retail services may be available from a rural or contract delivery carrier, which could alleviate the need to travel to a post office for service. The Postal Service will save an estimated \$42,492 annually. A disadvantage to some may be in meeting the rural or contract delivery carrier to transact business. However, it is not necessary to be present to conduct most Postal Service transactions with a rural or contract delivery carrier.

Taking all available information into consideration, the Postal Service has determined that the advantages outweigh the disadvantages and this proposal is warranted.

### VII. NOTICES

- A. Support Materials. Copies of all materials upon which this proposal is based are available for public inspection at the Woodgate Post Office and Forestport Post Office during normal office hours.
- B. This is a proposal. It is not a final determination to close this post office. If a final determination is made to close this post office, after public comments on this proposal are received and taken into account, a notice of that final determination will be posted in this office.

The final determination will contain instructions on how affected customers may appeal that decision to the Postal Regulatory Commission. Any such appeal must be received by the commission within 30 days of the posting of the final determination.



MICHELLE KRUL  
Manager, Post Office Operations

05/25/2011  
Date

U.S. Postal Service POST OFFICE CLOSING OR CONSOLIDATION PROPOSAL Fact Sheet				1. Date Prepared 07/01/2011																								
2. Post Office Name WOODGATE		3. State and ZIP + 4 Code NY, 13494-9998																										
4. District, Customer Service ALBANY PFC	5. Area, Customer Service NORTHEAST	6. County Oneida	7. Congressional District 23																									
8. Reason for Proposal to Discontinue This is a management initiated study to determine if regular and effective service can be provided through alternate channels.		9. PO Emergency Suspend (Reason and Date) No Suspension		10. Proposed Permanent Alternate Service																								
<b>11. Staffing</b>																												
a. <input type="checkbox"/> PM <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PM Vacancy Reason & Date: retired Occupied 10/02/2009 b. <input type="checkbox"/> OIC <input type="checkbox"/> Career <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-Career c. Current PM POSITION Level (150) EAS-11 Downgraded from EAS-11 d. No. of Clerks- 0 No. of Career- 0 No. of Non-Career- 0 e. No. of Others- 0 No. of Career- 0 No. of Non-Career- 1																												
<b>12. Hours of Service</b>																												
a. Time M-F 08:00 to 12:00 and 13:00 to 16:45 Sat 08:00 to 10:30 Total Window Hours Per Week a. Lobby Time M-F 08:00 to 17:00 Sat 08:00 to 11:00 41.25																												
<b>13. Number of Customers Served</b>																												
a. General Delivery 0 b. P.O. Box 126 c. City Delivery 0 d. Rural Delivery 98 e. Highway Contract Route Box 0 f. Total 222 g. No. Receiving Duplicate Service 0 h. Average No. Daily Transactions 21.30																												
<b>14. Daily Volume (Pieces)</b>																												
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Types of Mail</th> <th>Received</th> <th>Disputed</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>a. First-Class</td> <td>503</td> <td>51</td> </tr> <tr> <td>b. Newspaper</td> <td>202</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>c. Parcel</td> <td>8</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>d. Other</td> <td>3</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>e. Total</td> <td>716</td> <td>93</td> </tr> <tr> <td>f. No. of Postage Meters</td> <td></td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>g. No. of Permits</td> <td></td> <td>0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>					Types of Mail	Received	Disputed	a. First-Class	503	51	b. Newspaper	202	0	c. Parcel	8	2	d. Other	3	0	e. Total	716	93	f. No. of Postage Meters		0	g. No. of Permits		0
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g. No. of Permits		0																										
<b>Finances a. FY</b> 2008 2009 2010		<b>Receipts</b> \$ 52,361 \$ 45,198 \$ 35,857																										
		<b>b. EAS Step 1 PM Basic Salary (no Cola)</b> \$ 33,168																										
		<b>c. PM Fringe Benefits (33.8% of b.)</b> \$ 11,111																										
<b>15a. Quarters</b>																												
<input type="checkbox"/> Postal Owned <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Leased (if Leased, Expiration Date) 10/31/2011 Annual Lease \$ 13260																												
30-day cancellation clause? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Evicted? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No (if Yes, must vacate by)																												
Located in: <input type="checkbox"/> Business <input type="checkbox"/> Home <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Sublettable alternate quarters available? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No																												
15b. Explain: No termination clause. Alternate service at Forestport Post Office																												
17. Schools, Churches and Organization in Service Area. No. 1		19. Administrative/Emanating Office (Proposed):																										
Church		Name FORESTPORT EAS Level 15 Miles Away 7.0 Window Service Hours: M-F 09:00 to 16:45 SAT 09:30 to 11:00 Lobby Hours: M-F 7:15 to 17:00 SAT 7:30 to 11:30 PO Boxes Available 431																										
18. Businesses in Service Area. No. 43		20. Nearest Post Office (if different from above):																										
Adirondacks, Adirondack Grocery, Adirondack White Lake Association, Back to Basics Dog Kennels, Bear Creek Carpentry, Boy Scouts of America (Camp Russell), Creekside Gift and Antiques, Camp Turk, Camp Nazareth, Countryside Vet Clinic, Family Solutions, Gary Ramsey Guide Service, Jerry's Small Engine Repairs, KevAnne's Coffee and Gift Shop, Kratzenberg's Masonary, Kratzenberg's Stucco, Lake and Country Construction, Little Long Lake Campers Assoc, Lou's Electrical and Plumbing, Mattson's Produce and Cabins, Natur's Treasures, No Two Alike, North Country Cabins, North Country Communications, North country Scooters, Quilted in the Woods, P&J Construction, Season's Cafe and Cabins, Stumble Inn, Thendara Automotive, UpNorth Bait, Upstate Power Washing, Walker Consulting, White Lake Inn, White Lake Antiques, White Lake Lodges, White Lake Fish and Game Club, White Lake Polaris, White Lake Creations, Woodgate Storage, Woodgate International, Woodgate Volunteer Fire Department, Woodgate Library		Name FORESTPORT EAS Level 15 Miles Away 7.0 Window Service Hours: M-F 09:00 to 16:45 SAT 09:30 to 11:00 Lobby Hours: M-F SAT PO Boxes Available 0																										
<b>21. Prepared by</b>																												
Printed Name and Title NADINE TREMBLAY		Signature NADINE TREMBLAY		Telephone No. AC ( ) (518) 452-4085																								
PO Discontinuation Coordinator Name NADINE TREMBLAY		Location ALBANY, NY																										
PS Form 4920, June 1993																												



07/28/2011

MEMO TO THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Certification of the Record  
WOODGATE  
Docket Number 1388180 - 13494

This certifies that all comments and documents enclosed in the attached record are originals, or true and correct copies of the originals.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Ed. Phelan", with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

EDWARD PHELAN  
District Manager

## LOG OF POST OFFICE DISCONTINUANCE ACTIONS

Office Name, State, ZIP Code: WOODGATE, NY, 13494-9998

EAS Level: 11

District: ALBANY PFC

County: ONEIDA

Congressional District: 23

Proposal: ☒ Close ☐ Consolidate

Reason For Proposed: retired

Alternate Service Proposed: Rural Route Service

Customers Affected:

Post Office Box: 126

General Delivery: 0

Rural Route: 0

Highway Contract Route (HCR): 0

City Route: 0

Intermediate Rural: 0

Intermediate HCR: 0

Total number of customers: 126

Date	Action
	Office suspended. Reason suspended:
	Suspension notice sent to Headquarters.
10/02/2009	Postmaster vacancy occurred. Reason: retired
	OIC: Career: 0 Noncareer: 1 Other Employees: 1
02/25/2011	District manager authorization to study.
	Questionnaires sent to customers. Number sent: 127 Number Returned: 102
05/03/2011	Analysis: Favorable 4 Unfavorable 59 No Opinion 39
06/24/2011	Petition received. Number of signatures: 693
	Concerns expressed:
	Request to leave Woodgate open and reappoint a Postmaster
06/09/2011	Congressional inquiry received: Yes
	Concerns expressed:
	Asked to review self-explanatory material submitted by constituent, John Isley.
05/24/2011	Proposal and checklist sent to district for review.
05/24/2011	Government Relations and Retail Operations notified by district 10 days before the 60-day posting (PS Form 4920 attached).
05/24/2011	Proposal and invitation for comments posted and round-dated.
07/27/2011	Proposal and invitation for comments removed and round-dated.
	Comment Analysis:
	Favorable 1 Unfavorable 125 No Opinion 11 137
None	Premature PRC appeal received.
	Concerns expressed:
07/01/2011	Updated PS Form 4920 completed (if necessary).
07/28/2011	Certification of the official record.
07/29/2011	District transmittal of official record to vice president, Delivery and Retail, and copy of transmittal letter to vice president, Area Operations.
08/14/2011	Headquarters logged in official record (option entry).
	Record returned to district for additional consideration.
	Record returned as not warranted.
08/24/2011	Final determination posted at affected office(s) and round-dated.
	Final determination removed and round-dated.
	Postal Bulletin Post Office Change Announcement form sent to Headquarters.
	No appeals letter received from Headquarters.
09/13/2011	Appeal to PRC received.
	PRC opinion received on appeal:
	Affirmed: Remanded: USPS Withdrawn:
	Address management systems notified to updated AMS report.
	Discontinuance announced in Postal Bulletin No.: Effective date:

Review Coordinator/person most familiar with the case:

NADINE TREMBLAY  
Name/Title

NADINE TREMBLAY  
District Post Office Review Coordinator

(518) 452-4085  
Telephone Number

(518) 452-4085  
Telephone Number



07/29/2011

VICE PRESIDENT, DELIVERY AND POST OFFICE OPERATIONS  
UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE  
475 L'ENFANT PLAZA ROOM 5621  
WASHINGTON DC 20260-5621

SUBJECT: Official Record

Enclosed for your review and approval is the official record to discontinue the Woodgate Post Office.

All appropriate actions have been taken, and we have considered the concerns/comments of affected customers. The record has been thoroughly reviewed, and all necessary documentation is included. All documents in the record are numbered and contain dockert and item numbers on each page and a chronological index of all documents in the record is included. Effective and regular service will be provided to community residents by permanently implementing the alternative service proposed.

Refer questions about this Post Office discontinuance to Nadine Tremblay, Post Office Review Coordinator, at (518) 452-4085 or Michelle Krul Manager Post Office Operations.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Ed. Phelan", written over a light blue rectangular background.

EDWARD PHELAN  
DISTRICT MANAGER  
30 KARNER RD  
ALBANY, NY 12288-9992

Enclosures:

One copy of record (<http://hqcsopps.usps.gov/public/dis/4B/P1388180.pdf>)  
Headquarters acknowledgment of receipt of official record (optional)  
Self-addressed envelope

cc: Vice President, NORTHEAST Area (no enclosures)

### Headquarters Acknowledgment of Receipt of Official Record

The official record to consolidate the WOODGATE was received by 08/14/2011.  
Please contact the Headquarters coordinator at (916) 916-8315 or the address below for additional information regarding its status

475 L'ENFANT PLAZA SW ROOM 6700  
WASHINGTON DC 20260-6700

Enclosure (self-addressed envelope)

**\*Note:** The acknowledgment form is optional and to be used at the district's discretion. Please provide the following memorandum and a self-addressed return envelope if you wish to receive an acknowledgment of Headquarters receipt of the record.

DOCKET NO. 1388180-13494  
ITEM NO. 47  
PAGE 1

Date of Posting: 08/24/2011

Date of Removal: 09/25/2011

FINAL DETERMINATION TO CLOSE  
THE WOODGATE, NY POST OFFICE  
AND EXTEND  
SERVICE BY RURAL ROUTE SERVICE

DOCKET NUMBER 1388180 - 13494

**I. RESPONSIVENESS TO COMMUNITY POSTAL NEEDS**

The Postal Service is issuing the final determination to close the Woodgate, NY Post Office and provide delivery and retail services by rural route service under the administrative responsibility of the Forestport Post Office, located seven miles away.

The postmaster position became vacant when the postmaster retired on October 02, 2009. Since the postmaster vacancy an OIC has been installed to operate the office. Postmaster level and office service hours are determined by a workload analysis which includes the number of deliveries and revenue.

The office was studied for possible closing or consolidation due to the following reasons: This is a management initiated study to determine if regular and effective service can be provided through alternate channels.

The Woodgate Post Office, an EAS-11 level, provides service from 08:00 to 12:00 and 13:00 to 16:45 Monday - Friday, 08:00 to 10:30 Saturday and lobby hours of 08:00 to 17:00 on Monday - Friday and 08:00 to 11:00 on Saturday to 126 post office box or general delivery customers and 96 delivery customers. Retail services included the sale of stamps, stamped paper, and money orders; special services such as Registered Mail, Certified Mail, Insured Mail, COD Mail, and Express Mail services; and the acceptance and dispatch of all classes of mail.

The retail window averaged 21 transaction(s) accounting for 25 minute(s) of retail workload daily. With minimal workload, the Postal Service feels that effective and regular service will be provided by rural route service. Office receipts for the last 3 years were: \$52,361 ( 137 revenue units) in FY 2008; \$45,198 ( 118 revenue units) in FY 2009; and \$35,957 ( 94 revenue units) in FY 2010. There were no permit mailer(s) or postage meter customer(s).

On May 12, 2011, representatives from the Postal Service were available at Woodgate Post Office lobby (Open House style format) to answer questions and provide information to customers. 94 customer(s) attended the meeting.

On May 03, 2011, 127 questionnaires were distributed to delivery customers of the Woodgate Post Office. Questionnaires were also available over the counter for retail customers at the Woodgate Post Office. 102 questionnaires were returned. Responses regarding the proposed alternate service were as follows: 4 favorable, 59 unfavorable, and 39 expressed no opinion.

One congressional inquiry was received on June 09, 2011.

A petition supporting the retention of the Woodgate Post Office was received on June 24, 2011, with 693 signatures.

When this final determination is implemented, delivery and retail services will be provided by the Forestport Post Office, an EAS-15 level office. Window service hours at the Forestport Post Office are from 09:00 to 12:00 and 14:00 to 16:45, Monday through Friday, and 09:30 to 11:00 on Saturday. There are 431 post office boxes available.

The proposal to close the Woodgate Post Office was posted with an invitation for comment at the Woodgate Post Office and Forestport Post Office from May 25, 2011 to July 26, 2011. The following additional concerns were received during the proposal posting period:

1. **Concern:**

Closing Post Office will drive customers to UPS or Fed Ex

**Response:**

Adapting to changes in the communication landscape is not new. By the beginning of the 20th century, there were 76,945 Post Offices, one for about every thousand residents, in our growing nation. In 1902, however, Congress extended free delivery to rural areas. That meant it was no longer necessary for patrons to visit an office to send or pick up mail. Today, there are about 31,800 post offices that provide retail and delivery services to customers nationwide. While we have seen more competition in the package delivery system over time, the largest change for us comes with the internet. A December 2010 Pew Research survey indicates that 77 percent of adult Americans regularly use the internet, with 66 percent making purchases and 58 doing banking online. These trends continue to significantly change the amount of mail that the Postal Service processes, as evident by a decline of 4.5 percent in mail volume in the past year. In package delivery, we continue to work with some of our competitors to round out the services we all provide. For example, we partner with both FedEx and UPS to provide essential parcel return services that allow customers to return items to participating retailers. We work closely with FedEx as a partner in air transport of time-sensitive packages and cargo, which keeps our prices in line and attractive for new users. And, as Congress allows us greater flexibility in developing products, we are aggressively marketing new products — like the Flat Rate Priority Mail package — that sends more business our way.

2. **Concern:**

Customer asked if one postmaster can manage multiple offices.

**Response:**

Postmasters are fiscally responsible for one independent post office, and at times can oversee the administrative responsibilities for stations or branches of the independent post office.

3. Concern:

Customer concern about cost of gas to travel to another Post Office

Response:

With a workforce that travels 1.25 billion miles on the road each year in support of mail services, a growing fleet of environmentally responsible vehicles and a price structure that suffers \$1 million in added costs whenever gas prices bump up just one penny, the Postal Service is sensitive to concerns for gas prices and travel. We are expanding our options to include centralized delivery services in some locations. We have received a notice of interest from local establishments in your area regarding placement of centralized delivery units within the community, which could minimize the need to travel to retrieve mail.

4. Concern:

Customer concerned about ability to obtain flat rate packaging, early morning and overnight mailing services, accountable mail services, and zip codes from carrier.

Response:

Flat Rate Priority Boxes can be ordered free of charge at [www.usps.com](http://www.usps.com), and will be shipped to your address. Services provided at the Post Office will be available from the carrier, and customers will not have to travel to another Post Office for service. Most transactions do not require meeting the carrier at the mailbox. Stamps by Mail are available for customer convenience. Stamps are also available at many stores and gas stations where customers may already shop, online at [usps.com](http://usps.com), or by calling 1-800-STAMP-24. There are many other services available online at [usps.com](http://usps.com), including: find a zip code, calculate postage, print a shipping label, schedule a pickup, track and confirm, price comparison, ordering free shipping supplies, Change of Address, and hold mail request to name a few. For those who do not have/use a computer call 1-800 ASK USPS to get mailing prices, change of address, track and confirm, hold mail requests, request redelivery, delivery assistance, find hours and locations, get a zip code, passport information, and buy stamps.

5. Concern:

Customer concerned about services afforded to camps.

Response:

It is the understanding of the USPS that most of the camps in the area have been afforded rural service, but may choose to pick up mail at the Post Office. Personal requirements will vary and should be considered carefully.

6. Concern:

Customer concerned about the ability of a Rural Carrier to hand cancel a particular piece of mail.

Response:

Mail that required a hand cancellation can be requested from the carrier. When the carrier returns to the Post Office, it will receive the cancellation.

7. Concern:

Customer concerned about Woodgate Post Office being part of the community for 135 years.

Response:

The Postal Service is exploring alternate services that would maintain community identity and provide some retail service. The Village Post Office is one type of alternate service that may be feasible. A VPO performs the following "limited" functions: • Sells stamps Forever booklets (sold at face value) Must maintain established quantity and replenish • Provides Priority Flat Rate Boxes and Envelopes through small expedited package service display • Asks Hazmat/Aviation Security questions and stamps mailing with stamp provided (training provided by USPS) • Exterior Blue collection box provided • PO Boxes (Centralized Box Unit) - Customers retain current PO Box Address Casing of mail and rental done by carrier Redelivery by carrier the next day or Customer can retrieve at Main Post Office Signage on PO Box unit will address issues (rental, contents of box, etc), not the VPO contractor

8. Concern:

Customer concerned with the reference that Forestport Post Office is 7.0 miles away.

Response:

The Forestport Post Office is 7.0 miles away from Woodgate Post Office. Distance will be closer or further from each customer's residence.

9. Concern:

Customer expressed a concern about mail theft from the mailbox.

Response:

A questionnaire was sent to the postal inspection service concerning mail theft and vandalism in the Woodgate area. Their records indicate that there has not been any report of mail theft or vandalism in the area.

10. Concern:

Customer expressed a concern about the cost savings obtained by the Postal Service from the closure of Post Offices. Quoting the PRC which said if the Postal Service closed 1000 Post Offices, it would only save 0.7% of the postal budget.

Response:

The Postal Service has developed and begun implementing a range of cost-reducing initiatives. These include: consolidating operations, adjusting delivery routes, restructuring administrative and processing functions and closing district offices. We also have introduced several new products and services, including Priority Mail Flat Rate boxes and Adult Signature service, in an effort to grow revenue.

11. Concern:

Customer expressed a concern regarding difficulty picking up mail if Post Office is closed.

Response:

The Postal Service is also reviewing the possibility of a Village Post Office. If applicable, this would afford the community a chance to keep their PO Boxes in a centralized location within the community. If located outdoors, could afford 24 hour secured access to your mail.

12. Concern:

Customer expressed a concern that they live on a private road. If they were to use rural delivery, they are concerned they would not hear the carrier's horn.

Response:

Stamp purchases represent more than 85 percent of the Postal Service's retail sales. Today there are nearly 70,000 banks, ATMs, grocery stores, pharmacies and retail stores selling postal products and services located nationwide. That's more than double the number of Post Offices. In fact, nearly 35 percent of the Postal Service's revenue comes from locations other than Post Offices. Our online locator service — found at the Locate A Post Office tab at [www.usps.com](http://www.usps.com) — can help individuals select the location of post offices that best suit their regular routines or to find alternate locations to purchase stamps, when provision of stamps at a post office for by a letter carrier en route are not sufficient to meet a customer's need. Each day, approximately 1.1 million Americans will use the [usps.com](http://usps.com) website for services such as how to locate a post office. The top online requests include ZIP code look up and tracking packages. We believe placing the most requested postal product — stamps — in nearly 100,000 locations nationwide, partnered with the uninterrupted delivery of your mail and expanded online services, constitutes regular and effective access for postal customers. The Postal Service is also reviewing the possibility of a Village Post Office. If applicable, this would afford the community a chance to keep their PO Boxes in a centralized location within the community.

13. Concern:

Customer expressed concern regarding having to travel to pick up prescriptions.

Response:

Many health care plans offer incentives to utilize the "mail order" option on prescriptions filled via their mail order channel. Delivery can be made to mail box or PO Box.

14. Concern:

Customer expressed dissatisfaction with governmental spending by Senators and Congressmen and questioned how they are trimming their own personal budgets.

Response:

The USPS is self supported through the sale of postage, not tax dollars, unlike departments of the Federal Government. The USPS is taking several steps to reduce the deficit. Closing small offices is one step of many which are being examined and, depending on circumstances, initiated. Additionally, there are bills before Congress to address: overpaid pensions, 5 day delivery, and pre-funded Health Benefit Relief. The Postal Service has actively made reductions at all levels of the organization, including: a 20 % reduction in administrative positions, as well as reducing one Area and seven District offices.

15. Concern:

Customer expresses a concern that an individual Post Office can not be closed solely for economic reasons.

Response:

By regulation, we do not close post offices based solely upon revenue figures. We look at several elements that include office workload, customer demand and availability of alternatives. Finances are a part of the data collected. Consistent application of these metrics gives us an even-handed approach to studying offices around the nation.

16. **Concern:** Customer feels that cost savings have to come from the top down.
- Response:** The Postal Service has developed and begun implementing a range of cost-reducing initiatives. These include: consolidating operations, adjusting delivery routes, restructuring administrative and processing functions and closing district offices. We also have introduced several new products and services, including Priority Mail Flat Rate boxes and Adult Signature service, in an effort to grow revenue. The Postal Service of the future will be smaller, leaner and more competitive. But it will continue to drive commerce, service communities and deliver value. As a self-supporting government enterprise, the Postal Service receives no tax dollars. It relies solely on the sale of postage, products and services to pay for operating expenses. Revenue generation is a matter of business survival.
17. **Concern:** Customer felt that postal workers unions should be carefully reviewed before considering closing any post office.
- Response:** The Postal Service continues to cut costs significantly with initiatives to reduce the size of its labor force, the number of mail processing facilities and administrative overhead. Over the last four fiscal years, the Postal Service has reduced its size by 110,000 career positions and saved \$12 billion in costs. The Postal Service also is generating new revenue by opening cost-effective new retail locations in places where people already shop, including grocery stores, drug stores and office supply stores, and introducing other new product and pricing initiatives. Despite significant cost reductions in areas within its control, and even with this emergency action, the Postal Service needs Congress to enact legislation that would do the following to return the Postal Service to financial stability: • Eliminate the current mandates requiring retiree health benefit pre-payments. • Allow the Postal Service to access Civil Service Retirement System and FERS overpayments. • Give the Postal Service the authority to determine the frequency of mail delivery.
18. **Concern:** Customer felt the decision has already been made to close Woodgate.
- Response:** No final decision has been made. At the end of the 60-day comment period, additional review is made at lower and upper levels of postal management. When a final decision is made at Postal Headquarters in Washington, DC, that decision is posted in affected Post Offices for 30 days, during which customers may appeal the decision to the Postal Regulatory Commission in Washington, DC. The Postal Regulatory Commission has 120 days to consider and decide an appeal. Even without an appeal, no Post Office may be closed sooner than 60 days after the public posting of the final decision.
19. **Concern:** Customer has a street address and stated that mail delivery presently is dependable and timely. Customer is concerned that with changes proposed would hamper mail delivery.
- Response:** Customer currently has street delivery, and should experience no change to that service.
20. **Concern:** Customer inquired about Hold Mail service.
- Response:** Heading out for a few days? Whether you are on vacation or an unexpected business trip you can rest easy knowing your mail is safely held for you at your local Post Office. This online service will electronically notify your local Post Office to hold your mail. For same day service, online requests must be submitted by 2AM CST Monday - Saturday. Mail can be held from 3 to 30 days. We will resume normal delivery of your mail on the date you specify. A Hold Mail may be requested up to 14 calendar days in advance. Online access to request this service is currently limited to certain ZIP Codes. Hold Mail request forms are also available from your carrier or Post Office. Taking a long vacation? Or an out-of-town assignment? Make sure you don't miss any bills or other important mail. Premium Forwarding Service® may be the solution that is right for you.
21. **Concern:** Customer inquired if there are protocols or regulations that preclude keeping the PO boxes where they are without a retail presence.

Our customer's habits have made it clear they no longer require a physical post office to conduct most of their postal business. More and more of them are choosing to conduct their postal business online, on their smart phone and at their shopping destinations. And that means the need for us to maintain nearly 32,000 retail offices has diminished. So we are taking the next step in right-sizing our retail network by studying approximately 3,700 retail offices to determine customer needs. As part of this study, we are introducing a retail-replacement option — Village Post Offices — as an option for affected communities. Village Post Offices would be operated by local businesses, such as pharmacies, grocery stores and other appropriate retailers, and would offer popular postal products and services such as stamps and flat-rate packaging.

22. Concern:

Customer questioned how is a customer suppose to transact business with a carrier when the customer pays by credit card?

Response:

The customer probably have seen your rural letter carrier at work, driving alongside the road, mailbox to mailbox, picking up, and delivering the mail. What you may not have seen, however, is the range and quality of services they provide. In addition to picking up and delivering your mail, they • Pick up and deliver parcels, and Priority Mail and Express Mail items. • Sells stamps and Postal Money Orders. • Accept and deliver Registered Mail, Certified Mail, and Insured Mail items. • Accept payment for Collect on Delivery (COD) packages. To order stamps, postal cards, or stamped envelopes, just ask your rural letter carrier for a Stamp Purchase Order form. It comes with its own envelope. Rural carriers accept cash, checks and money orders. Credit card users can buy stamps by telephone for a small handling fee. Credit card users can dial 800-STAMP-24 (800-782-6724). Regionally, some banks and credit unions — such as Key Bank around New York — offer stamps through ATMs. A fee may apply. Credit cards are also accepted for purchases at [www.usps.com](http://www.usps.com). Postal money orders may not be purchased with a credit card at any time, although post offices can negotiate money orders using debit cards.

23. Concern:

Customer questioned how perishable items that shouldn't freeze are handled.

Response:

Carriers will use deliver the parcels endorsed "perishable" if it can be left at a delivery point without potential damage to the contents (such as fruit in winter). If it can not be left at the delivery point, a second attempt to deliver is made only if requested by the addressee. A second notice is sent if the parcel is not called for after 5 days. If the parcel remains unclaimed 10 days after the first delivery attempt or the retention period specified by the mailer, the parcel is handled according to POM 68, Undeliverable Mail.

24. Concern:

Customer questioned if it will take more time for the carrier to do their route.

Response:

The carrier already travels most of the roads in Woodgate. Almost all customers that currently have PO Box service, have rural delivery afforded to them.

25. Concern:

Customer questioned reason for cut in services.

Response:

As more customers choose to conduct their postal business online, on their smart phones and at their favorite shopping destinations, the need for the U.S. Postal Service to maintain its nearly 32,000 retail offices — the largest retail network in the country — diminishes. To that end, the U.S. Postal Service is taking the next step in right-sizing its expansive retail network by conducting studies of retail offices to determine customer needs. As part of this effort, the Postal Service also introduced a retail-replacement option for affected communities around the nation. "Today, more than 35 percent of the Postal Service's retail revenue comes from expanded access locations such as grocery stores, drug stores, office supply stores, retail chains, self-service kiosks, ATMs and [usps.com](http://usps.com), open 24/7," said Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe. "Our customer's habits have made it clear that they no longer require a physical post office to conduct most of their postal business."

26. Concern:

Customer questioned the additional cost factors associated with the proposed rural carrier service.

Response:

Carrier service can be and, in this case, is more cost-effective than maintaining a postal facility and a postmaster position. The Postal Service estimates an annual savings with this change. Rural carrier service is already available to most locations in the Woodgate community. The estimated savings of \$ 57,479 annually, less the annual cost of replacement (rural) service - \$ 14,987, nets a positive total annual savings of \$ 42,492 as stated in the proposal.

27. Concern:

Customer questions ability to challenge independently the financial problems of the USPS.

Response:

Information regarding the current financial crisis of the Postal Service is readily available on [www.usps.com](http://www.usps.com). The Postal Service continues to face the challenge of significantly reduced revenue resulting from the dramatic loss in mail volume and the decline in First-Class Mail that began in 2008. Mail volume losses are a result of the economic recession and the continued electronic diversion of mail. On January 7, PMG Pat Donahoe announced the beginning of an organizational redesign that will help streamline the Postal Service. The announcement included a 16-percent reduction in the officer ranks of the Postal Service and the impending closure of the Southeast Area. The Postal Service continues to cut costs significantly with initiatives to reduce the size of its labor force, the number of mail processing facilities and administrative overhead. Over the last four fiscal years, the Postal Service has reduced its size by 110,000 career positions and saved \$12 billion in costs. The Postal Service also is generating new revenue by opening cost-effective new retail locations in places where people already shop, including grocery stores, drug stores and office supply stores, and introducing other new product and pricing initiatives. Despite significant cost reductions in areas within its control, and even with this emergency action the Postal Service needs Congress to enact legislation that would do the following to return the Postal Service to financial stability: • Eliminate the current mandates requiring retiree health benefit pre-payments. • Allow the Postal Service to access Civil Service Retirement System and FERS overpayments. • Give the Postal Service the authority to determine the frequency of mail delivery.

28. Concern:

Customer requested guarantee in writing that the Postal Service would not take away their rural delivery service as part of a future cost cutting plan.

Response:

No one can predict the future with 100% certainty, however, the probability is that rural service would not be removed as part of a future cost cutting plan. Carrier service can be and, in this case, is more cost-effective than maintaining a postal facility and a postmaster position. The Postal Service estimates an annual savings with this change.

29. Concern:

Customer stated that if the Post Office closes, they will use the internet to conduct business.

Response:

Consumer needs have changed — dramatically. Customers now receive and pay bills online and communicate by e-mail and text message. They demand easier, more convenient access to Postal products and services when and where they want them — online, on their smart phones and at the stores they frequent. First-Class Mail declines are driven mainly by customers making fewer bill payments by mail, companies sending out fewer hard-copy statements and financial institutions migrating to online transactions. The recent recession significantly sped up this trend. We expect this shift in the mix of mail to continue as the digital world expands and customer habits shift accordingly. Trends also moved downward for Periodicals (newspapers and magazines), as consumers receive fewer hard-copy publications. We do not believe these trends are influenced by numbers of post offices but, rather, by the migration of materials to the internet and to new technologies in the market.

30. Concern:

Customer stated that since the PO is only approx. 100 yds. from the main Route 28, it is simple to drop off and pick up mail on the trucks way north or south.

Response:

Statement regarding PO being approx. 100 yds. from the main Route 28, is simple to drop off and pick up mail on the trucks way north or south has been added to the record.

31. Concern:

Customer stated the necessity for stopping raises.

Response:

Postal Service is moving forward with two new cash conservation initiatives effective July 1, 2011. They are: 1. Suspension of discretionary awards for FY 2011. 2. Freezing of Postal Service officer and executive compensation as it relates to the Postal Service's pay-for-performance program. The award program for employee recognition and incentive awards is suspended until further notice and applies to all Executive Administrative Schedule (EAS) — administrative and managerial positions — and Postal Career Executive Service (PCEs) — senior managers. This prohibits awarding cash, cash equivalent and non-cash tangible items intended for employee recognition.

32. Concern:

Customer stated the savings would be so minimal that the proposal is not necessary.

Response:

The Postal Service estimates a very conservative savings of \$42,492 annually. As more customers choose to conduct their postal business online, on their smart phones and at their favorite shopping destinations, the need for the U.S. Postal Service to maintain its nearly 32,000 retail offices — the largest retail network in the country — diminishes. To that end, the U.S. Postal Service is taking the next step in right-sizing its expansive retail network by conducting studies of retail offices to determine customer needs. As part of this effort, the Postal Service also introduced a retail-replacement option for affected communities around the nation. "Today, more than 35 percent of the Postal Service's retail revenue comes from expanded access locations such as grocery stores, drug stores, office supply stores, retail chains, self-service kiosks, ATMs and usps.com, open 24/7," said Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe. "Our customer's habits have made it clear that they no longer require a physical post office to conduct most of their postal business."

33. Concern:

Customer stated they were in favor of no rural delivery in favor of Boxes at Post Office.

Response:

The Postal Service is required to provide one free form of delivery. When street delivery is not feasible, customers are afforded no-fee PO Box service. The Postal Service is also reviewing the possibility of a Village Post Office. If applicable, this would afford the community a chance to keep their PO Boxes in a centralized location within the community.

34. Concern:

Customer submitted Resolution opposing the closing of the Woodgate Post Office as a cost cutting measure, and questions the additional cost factors associated with the proposed rural carrier service.

Response:

Customers Resolutions has been added to the official record. Carrier service can be and, in this case, is more cost-effective than maintaining a postal facility and a postmaster position. The Postal Service estimates an annual savings with this change. Rural carrier service is already available to most locations in the Woodgate community. The estimated savings of \$ 57,479 annually, less the annual cost of replacement (rural) service - \$ 14,987, nets a positive total annual savings of \$ 42,492 as stated in the proposal.

35. Concern:

Customer suggested charging a fee for rural delivery

Response:

The Postal Service is required to provide one free form of delivery. When street delivery is not feasible, customers are afforded no-fee PO Box service

36. Concern:

Customer suggested closing the post office on Saturdays.

Response:

The Senate subcommittee chairman introduced a bill that addresses the financial issues confronting the Postal Service. Among other provisions, the proposal authorizes a transition to a 5-day delivery schedule. At this stage, it is still a bill.

37. Concern:

Customer suggested reducing hours at the Post Office rather than closing it.

Response:

The study to close was initiated to determine if effective and regular service can be provided by a more cost-effective alternate service. Expenditures such as salary, benefits, and lease, to name a few would be much larger cost savings when alternate services are available. Reducing hours to part time would require proposing to change the independent post office to a station/branch. We are also exploring the feasibility of centralized delivery.

38. Concern:

Customer suggested that proper insulation of building would reduce cost of heating; use saving from a lack of Postmaster to upgrade building.

Response:

Carrier service can be and, in this case, is more cost-effective than maintaining a postal facility and a postmaster position. The Postal Service estimates an annual savings with this change.

39. Concern:

Customer suggested to postpone closing procedures until H.R. 1351, the USPS Pension Obligation Recalculation and Restoration Act of 2011 is complete and nearly 7 billion dollars from the pension fund are recovered.

Response:

As more customers choose to conduct their postal business online, on their smart phones and at their favorite shopping destinations, the need for the U.S. Postal Service to maintain its nearly 32,000 retail offices — the largest retail network in the country — diminishes. To that end, the U.S. Postal Service is taking the next step in right-sizing its expansive retail network by conducting studies of retail offices to determine customer needs. As part of this effort, the Postal Service also introduced a retail-replacement option for affected communities around the nation. "Today, more than 35 percent of the Postal Service's retail revenue comes from expanded access locations such as grocery stores, drug stores, office supply stores, retail chains, self-service kiosks, ATMs and usps.com, open 24/7," said Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe. "Our customer's habits have made it clear that they no longer require a physical post office to conduct most of their postal business." The Postal Service continues to cut costs significantly with initiatives to reduce the size of its labor force, the number of mail processing facilities and administrative overhead. Over the last four fiscal years, the Postal Service has reduced its size by 110,000 career positions and saved \$12 billion in costs. The Postal Service also is generating new revenue by opening cost-effective new retail locations in places where people already shop, including grocery stores, drug stores and office supply stores, and introducing other new product and pricing initiatives. Despite significant cost reductions in areas within its control, and even with this emergency action, the Postal Service needs Congress to enact legislation that would do the following to return the Postal Service to financial stability: • Eliminate the current mandates requiring retiree health benefit pre-payments. • Allow the Postal Service to access Civil Service Retirement System and FERS overpayments. • Give the Postal Service the authority to determine the frequency of mail delivery.

40. Concern:

Customer that already has a street address was concerned about having to change everything connected with it.

Response:

Customers that already have Woodgate street delivery WILL NOT be required to change their address.

41. Concern:

Customer was concerned about cluster box service being a hardship.

Response:

Proposed "centralized delivery" was an option for current PO Box customers to be able to retain their PO Box address and receive delivery in Woodgate, rather than travel to Forestport.

42. Concern:

Customers asked what other ways USPS was trying to make up the deficit, other than closing their post office.

Response:

Closing small offices is one step of many which are being examined and, depending on circumstances, initiated. Additionally, there are bills before Congress to address: overpaid pensions, 5 day delivery, and pre-funded Health Benefit Relief. The Postal Service has actively made reductions at all levels of the organization, including: a 20 % reduction in administrative positions, as well as reducing one Area and seven District offices

43. Concern:

Customers felt inclement weather and poor road conditions might impede delivery.

Response:

Both inclement weather and heavy mail volume can cause deviations from the normal delivery schedule. However, the carrier is required to provide a vehicle of adequate size, equipped with necessary equipment (chains or snow tires, warning lights or signs, etc.) to serve the route safely and efficiently and in accordance with federal, state, and local motor vehicle laws and regulations.

44. Concern:

Customers inquired about mailbox installation and maintenance.

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Response:

Customers are responsible for mailbox installation and maintenance. Mailboxes must be placed so that they may be safely and conveniently served by the carrier and must be located on the right-hand side of the road in the direction of the carrier's travel. Mailbox supports should conform to state laws and highway regulations. The Postal Service recommends that customers contact the Forestport postmaster or carrier for advice on placement of mailboxes and mailbox height and supports.

45. Concern:

Customers were concerned why the postmaster position was not filled.

Response:

All management positions were frozen in anticipation of the reorganization efforts.

46. Concern:

Customers were concerned about a possible address change.

Response:

Customers who retain their PO Box or currently have street delivery WILL NOT be required to change their address. ONLY customers electing to close their PO Box and begin street delivery would be required to change their address, if a final determination is made to close or consolidate this office. 911 addresses are generally given by the county's 911 coordinator. The Postal Service does not establish 911 addresses. Any questions concerning your 911 address should be directed to the county's 911 coordinator.

47. Concern:

Customers were concerned about having to make an address change on their bank checks and stationery.

Response:

Customers will be assigned a carrier route address. The new address will continue to use the community name and ZIP Code. Mail will be forwarded in accordance with postal regulations, and change of address forms are available online at usps.com or from the Postal Service to assist customers in notifying correspondents of the change. Customers may deplete their current supply of checks and stationery and make the address corrections when ordering new supplies.

48. Concern:

Customers were concerned about later delivery of mail.

Response:

The top priority of the Postal Service is to provide mail service in the most efficient manner possible because all of our costs are reflected in postage rates customers must pay. Delivery costs are one of our biggest expenses, so you can be assured that careful thought is given to the structure of each route. A customer's location on a carrier's line of travel determines the time of day mail is delivered. This, of course, precludes providing early delivery of mail to every customer because, no matter how we structure a route, somebody must be last. We do, however, carefully consider the volume of mail for each route so that we can deliver the greatest amount of mail at the earliest possible hour. With the largest fleet of delivery vehicles in the world, to minimize vehicle and fuel expenses we must also pay special attention to energy conservation measures. When the price of gasoline goes up one cent per gallon our total gasoline cost rises more than \$1 million. Therefore, when structuring a route, we must balance our goal to deliver as much mail as possible as early as possible with the need to minimize the travel distance a route must cover. We do regret the inconvenience to customers who would like, but cannot receive, early mail delivery. For those customers we offer alternative delivery services, such as Post Office box service that provide access to their mail earlier and throughout the day.

49. Concern:

Customers were concerned about mail security for medicine.

Response:

Many health care plans offer incentives to utilize the "mail order" option on prescriptions filled via their mail order channel. Delivery can be made to mail box or PO Box. Customers may place a lock on their mailboxes. The mailbox must have a slot large enough to accommodate the customer's normal daily mail volume. The Postal Service does not open mailboxes which are locked and does not accept keys for this purpose.

50. Concern:

Customers were concerned about permit mailing.

Response:

Administrative responsibility for the permit account will be or has been transferred to the Forestport Post Office. Mailings must be submitted to that office for verification. Customers interested in obtaining a permit should contact the Forestport postmaster.

51. Concern:

Customers were concerned about the quality of service, reliability, and integrity of the contractor.

Response:

Award of the contract is based on evaluation of criteria including annual monetary amount, contractor ability and background, and the quality and location of the facility. The successful bidder must be bonded and will be trained, administered, and supervised by the Postal Service to ensure high standards of service.

52. Concern:

Financial Data:

Response:

Financial data is considered proprietary information during the study phase. If a proposal to close an office is posted, financial data pertaining to that proposal will be disclosed on the proposal.

53. Concern:

How is service "regular and effective" when customers have to travel further to conduct certain transactions not afforded by carrier?

Response:

Stamp purchases represent more than 85 percent of the Postal Service's retail sales. Today there are nearly 70,000 banks, ATMs, grocery stores, pharmacies and retail stores selling postal products and services located nationwide. That's more than double the number of Post Offices. In fact, nearly 35 percent of the Postal Service's revenue comes from locations other than Post Offices. Our online locator service — found at the Locate A Post Office tab at [www.usps.com](http://www.usps.com) — can help individuals select the location of post offices that best suit their regular routines or to find alternate locations to purchase stamps, when provision of stamps at a post office for by a letter carrier en route are not sufficient to meet a customer's need. Each day, approximately 1.1 million Americans will use the [usps.com](http://usps.com) website for services such as how to locate a post office. The top online requests include ZIP code look up and tracking packages. We believe placing the most requested postal product — stamps — in nearly 100,000 locations nationwide, partnered with the uninterrupted delivery of your mail and expanded online services, constitutes regular and effective access for postal customers.

54. Concern:

July 26, 2001 Memo to the record

Response:

Received 52 (42 business, 10 non-profit) statements from the Woodgate Citizens Committee regarding closure of the office would affect business operations, requiring new business forms, bank checks, and operating invoices. Each and every one is a mom-and-pop owner-operated enterprise with an average staff of 2-7 persons. They do not have the time or the personnel to travel 18-20 miles to an out-of-the-town post office on a daily basis.

55. Concern:

June 15, 2011 Memo to the record

Response:

The attached newspaper article "Woodgate Fights Being Lost in the Mail" published in The Post-Standard; Sunday, June 12, 2011 was received and added to the official record.

56. Concern:

June 15, 2011 Memo to the record.

Response:

Received a letter from James & Bridget Matteson stating they own property on Route 28, Town of Forestport, County of Oneida, Hamlet of Woodgate, NY 13494, about ½ mile from the Woodgate Post Office and would like to provide assistance for alternate postal access at their business which has ample space, extensive parking and the wherewithal to staff. They can be contacted at PO Box 172, Woodgate, NY 13494. No phone number was provided. On 06/17/11, a letter was sent informing the customer that I will follow up with the VPO contact. An email was sent to Nadine Tremblay, Michelle Krul, Margaret Pepe, Linda Moak, and Sue Nielsen with the information for VPO contact.

57. Concern:

June 15, 2011 Memo to the record:

Response:

The attached newspaper article "Greetings from Woodgate: Don't stamp us out!" published in the Daily Sentinel dated Saturday, May 14, 2011 was received and added to the official record.

58. Concern:

June 27, 2011 Memo to the record

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Response:

On 06/24/11 a petition with 693 signatures requesting the Postal Service not close the Woodgate Post Office and to reappoint a postmaster was received from Woodgate Citizens Committee. On 06/27/11, an acknowledgement was mailed to Woodgate Citizens Committee, PO Box 52, Woodgate, NY 13494-0052 informing Woodgate Citizens Committee the petition and was received and has been added to the official record.

59. Concern:

Suggestion to shorten hours to save money

Response:

Part of our obligation to study expenses includes an assessment of our infrastructure. The Postal Service spends nearly \$2 billion on building expenses to operate its real estate inventory of more than 34,000 facilities. In 1970, with passage of the Postal Reorganization Act, the old Post Office Department was transformed into the U.S. Postal Service. At that time more than 2,000 facilities served as our primary, outgoing mail processing locations. Today, that number has been reduced to less than 300. As mailing habits of the nation change, we must consider the careful, but continuous streamlining of our retail facility footprint as well. For all postal facilities, annual net rental costs exceed \$1 billion. This expense reflects the fact that almost three-quarters of Postal Service facilities are leased. As we study facilities to take out of our network, we look at leasing costs as well as ancillary costs like utilities. We have an aggressive energy conservation program in place at all of our facilities and the Postal Service estimates that it has already saved around \$400 million in facility energy costs since 2006. Shorter hours at leased facilities reduce, but do not eliminate, pressures on our overhead expenses as we need at this time

60. Concern:

You were concerned about having to travel to another post office for service.

Response:

Services provided at the post office will be available from the carrier, and customers will not have to travel to another post office for service. Most transactions do not require meeting the carrier at the mailbox. Stamps by Mail and Money Order Application forms are available for customer convenience.

The following nonpostal concerns were expressed from questionnaires, the community meeting, on the petition, and on the congressional inquiry:

1. Concern:

Customer asked to reference the proximity of the Thendara, Old Forge, Eagle Bay and Inlet Post Office and delivery by boat to Lake residents on chart presented at community meeting.

Response:

The customer comment has been duly noted and the chart has been included in the official record.

2. Concern:

Customer expressed a concern about irregular hours that the rural route serves the community

Response:

Carriers strive to provide service at approximately the same time on a daily basis, however mail volumes and weather conditions often effect delivery times. If you desire special services from the rural carrier you may leave a note in your mailbox instructing the carrier to sound his horn, and then meet the carrier to receive services. Retail services may also be obtained at the Forestport post office located 7.0 miles away.

3. Concern:

Customer expressed a concern about package delivery and pickup.

Response:

Rural carriers will deliver packages that fit in your rural mail box, if the package does not fit in the mail box, the carrier will deliver the package up to ½ mile off of the line of travel, at a designated place, such as on your porch or under a carport. For carrier pick up of packages, you can contact the administrative Post Office, letting the carrier know that you have a package available for pick up. The carrier can deviate from the line of travel in order to receive packages. The rural carrier will accept letters, flats of packages up to 13 ounces for mailing. The carrier will estimate the cost and provide a receipt for any money received. On the following delivery day the carrier will provide change or a bill for the amount over the estimate. Packages over 13 ounces may be picked up if the postage was printed online or with a traceable meter.

4. Concern:

Customer expressed a concern about seasonal residents using the Post Office daily.

Response:

Seasonal residents can also obtain street delivery.

5. Concern:

Customer expressed a concern that summer residents had not returned to the area yet and would not have an opportunity to ask questions or raise concerns

Response:

There are a number of posting requirements and comment periods before any final decision or implementation would be made. All customers will have several opportunities to ask questions and make comments.

6. Concern:

Customer expressed a concern that they requested and were denied rural delivery service.

Response:

There are several guidelines which must be met prior to a road being approved for delivery. The road to be traveled must be maintained at all times of the year. It cannot dead end in a private driveway even if the drive is maintained by a municipality. There must be a suitable turning point provided for the carrier, preferably with no backing. If backing is involved, there are other guidelines to adhere to. If backing is necessitated, the Postmaster must verify it is in a low-traffic area and there are no children in the immediate vicinity on a regular basis. There must also be a minimum of one family per one-half mile of travel. If you have applied for and been denied an extension, you may wish to contact your local magistrate or other county official to determine if they can bring your road up to these standards. At that point, you may reapply for delivery.

7. Concern:

Customer submitted 2 page letter titled Dear Uncle Sam.

Response:

The letter has been entered into the official record.

8. Concern:

Customer suggested consideration to close Alder Creek Post Office instead because the facility is located less than two miles from the Forestport Post Office and is less profitable; serving a smaller area.

Response:

Post Office with an incumbent Postmaster can not be studied for discontinuance.

9. Concern:

Customer suggested to save money set up small wind turbines atop Post Office across America, thus providing inexpensive energy and providing jobs to American workers.

Response:

The customer's comments have been duly noted and added to the official record.

10. Concern:

Customers asked why their Post Office was being discontinued while others were retained.

Response:

Post Offices are reviewed on a case-by-case basis. When there is a vacancy in a small office, it is customary to conduct a study of the business activity and investigate the feasibility of providing service by alternate means.

11. Concern:

Customers asked why their post office was being discontinued while others were retained.

Response:

Post Offices are reviewed on a case-by-case basis. When there is a vacancy in a small office, it is customary to conduct a study of the business activity and investigate the feasibility of providing service by alternate means.

12. Concern:

Customers expressed concern about having to erect a rural mailbox.

Response:

Customers are not required to erect rural mailboxes. Customers may apply to receive PO Box service from the Forestport Post Office located 7.0 miles away or another location that is more convenient.

13. Concern:

Customers expressed concern for those customers with disabilities who are not able to go to Forestport Post Office to pick up their mail.

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Customers are not required to travel to another Post Office to receive mail or obtain retail services. These services will be provided by the carrier to a roadside mailbox located close to customers' residences. In hardship cases, delivery can be made to the home of a customer. Changes in the type of delivery are considered where service by existing methods would impose an extreme physical hardship for an individual customer. Any request for a change in delivery method must be submitted in writing to the Forestport postmaster.

14. Concern:

Customers expressed concern over the apparent lack of interest by the Postal Service for the needs of the community

Response:

The Postal Service is required to provide each community with regular and effective service, using the most cost efficient means possible. The proposed alternate delivery service will meet the mailing and service needs of the community in a more cost effective manner.

15. Concern:

Customers expressed concern that postal employees at the Forestport Post Office are rude

Response:

Employee courtesy is always a concern of postal managers. Postal employees receive periodic instructions regarding employee courtesy. We do not condone our employees' execution of their duties in an unprofessional or discourteous manner. This concern will be conveyed to the postmaster by the manager, post office operations.

16. Concern:

Customers felt the post office should remain open since they paid taxes

Response:

The Postal Service is not supported by tax dollars and must meet expenses by revenue it generates. Operational savings for the Postal Service contributes in the long run to stable postage rates and savings for customers.

17. Concern:

Customers questioned the economic savings of the proposed discontinuance.

Response:

Carrier service can be and, in this case, is more cost-effective than maintaining a postal facility and a postmaster position. The Postal Service estimates an annual savings with this change.

18. Concern:

Customers said they would miss the special attention and assistance provided by the personnel at the Woodgate Post Office.

Response:

Courteous and helpful service will be provided by personnel at the Forestport Post Office and from the carrier. Special assistance will be provided as needed.

19. Concern:

Customers wanted to know why the customer lines were so long at the Forestport Post Office

Response:

The Forestport Post Office serves a much larger community and has a heavier retail window workload. This concern has been brought to the attention of the Forestport postmaster so can monitor window operations and ensure that customers do not have an unreasonable wait to obtain services. The carrier can provide retail services, alleviating the need for customers to go to the post office for service.

20. Concern:

Customers were concerned about growth in the community

Response:

The growth of a community does not depend on the location of a post office. Based on information obtained by the Postal Service, it was determined that there has been minimal growth in the area in recent years. Carrier service will be able to accommodate future growth.

21. Concern:

Customers were concerned about having to travel to another Post Office for service.

Response:

Services provided at the Post Office will be available from the carrier, and customers will not have to travel to another Post Office for service. Most transactions do not require meeting the carrier at the mailbox. Stamps by Mail and Money Order Application forms are available for customer convenience. Stamps are also available at many stores and gas stations where customers may already shop, online at usps.com, or by calling 1-800-STAMP-24. Based on customer feedback regarding cost associated with travel, the Postal Service is also reviewing the possibility of a Village Post Office. If applicable,

this would afford the community a chance to keep their PO Boxes in a centralized location within the community.

22. **Concern:** Customers were concerned about loss of employment in the community
- Response:** The postmaster position is vacant and there is no guarantee that any replacement postmaster would be from the community.
23. **Concern:** Customers were concerned about mail security.
- Response:** Customers may place a lock on their mailboxes. The mailbox must have a slot large enough to accommodate the customer's normal daily mail volume. The Postal Service does not open mailboxes which are locked and does not accept keys for this purpose.
24. **Concern:** Customers were concerned about obtaining services from the carrier.
- Response:** Most retail services provided at the post office are available from the carrier and do not require meeting the carrier at the mailbox. Stamps by Mail and Money Order Application forms are available for customer convenience. Listed below are some services available from the carrier and how to obtain them.

#### **PURCHASING STAMPS BY MAIL**

The Stamps by Mail Program provides customers the opportunity to purchase stamps, envelopes, and postal cards by using a Stamps by Mail order form, available from the post office or the carrier. Commemorative stamps and stamp collecting products are also available. The customer addresses the postage paid order form envelope, encloses payment by personal check or postal money order made payable to the US Postal Service, and mails the form (postage-free) or leaves it in the mailbox for the carrier to pick up. Most orders are processed overnight, and some immediately.

#### **PURCHASING POSTAL MONEY ORDERS**

Customers may purchase money orders by meeting the carrier at the mailbox, completing an application, and paying the carrier (in cash) the price of the money order, plus the fee. The carrier gives the customer a receipt for the application. The money order is completed when the carrier returns to the post office, and a money order receipt is left in the customer's mailbox on the next delivery day. Most customers provide the carrier with a stamped, self-addressed envelope in which the completed money order is mailed to its destination. If customers prefer, the completed money orders will be returned for verification on the next delivery day.

#### **SPECIAL SERVICES**

Special services such as certified, registered, Express Mail, delivery confirmation, signature confirmation, and COD may be obtained from the carrier by leaving a note in the mailbox, along with the appropriate payment. The carrier will provide the services that day and leave a customer receipt in the mailbox on the next delivery day.

#### **HOLDING MAIL**

Customers who will be away for an extended time, such as a vacation, may request that their mail be held at the post office during their absence. Upon return the customer asks the post office to resume delivery.

25. **Concern:** Customers were concerned about senior citizens.
- Response:** Carrier service is beneficial to many senior citizens and those who face special challenges because the carrier can provide delivery and retail services to roadside mailboxes or Centralized Box Units. Customers do not have to make a special trip to the Post Office for service. Special provisions are made for hardship cases or special customer needs. To request an exception for hardship delivery, customers may contact the Forestport postmaster for more information.
26. **Concern:** Customers were concerned about the mailboxes being damaged by snowplows.
- Response:** Please contact the Forestport postmaster to determine the proper mailbox location and installation method that would help alleviate this concern. Placing the mailbox on a long, swinging, horizontal pipe is one method often used to avoid damage by snowplows.

Customer expressed a concern about their 911 address

**Response:**

911 addresses are generally given by the county's 911 coordinator. The Postal Service does not establish 911 addresses. Any questions concerning your 911 address should be directed to the county's 911 coordinator.

**28. Concern:**

Customers felt inclement weather and poor road conditions might impede delivery

**Response:**

Both inclement weather and heavy mail volume can cause deviations from the normal delivery schedule. However, the carrier is required to provide a vehicle of adequate size, equipped with necessary equipment (chains or snow tires, warning lights or signs, etc.) to serve the route safely and efficiently and in accordance with federal, state, and local motor vehicle laws and regulations.

**29. Concern:**

Customers were concerned about obtaining accountable mail and large parcels

**Response:**

If you live less than one-half mile from the line of travel, the carrier will attempt delivery of accountable items and large parcels to the customer's residence. If the live over one-half mile away or is not home when delivery is attempted, a notice will be left in the mailbox. Large parcels will be left outside the mailbox or at a designated location or a notice will be left in the mailbox. Attempted delivery items will be taken back to the Forestport Post Office. Customers may pick up the item at the post office, request redelivery on another day or authorize delivery to another party.

**Some advantages of the proposal are:**

1. The rural and contract carriers may provide retail services, alleviating the need to go to the post office. Stamps by Mail order forms are provided for customer convenience.
2. Customers opting for carrier service will have 24-hour access to their mail.
3. Savings for the Postal Service contribute in the long run to stable postage rates and savings for customers.
4. CBUs can offer the security of individually locked mail compartments. Parcel lockers provide convenient parcel delivery for customers.
5. Customers opting for carrier service will not have to pay post office box fees.
6. Saves time and energy for customers who drive to the post office to pick up mail.

**Some disadvantages of the proposal are:**

1. The loss of a retail outlet and a postmaster position in the community. Retail services may be provided by the rural or contract delivery carrier.
2. Meeting the rural or contract delivery carrier at the box to transact business. However, it is not necessary to be present to conduct most Postal Service transactions.
3. A change in the mailing address. The community name will continue to be used in the new address. A carrier route address will be assigned.

Taking all available information into consideration, the Postal Service concludes this final determination will provide a maximum degree of effective and regular postal services to the community.

## II. EFFECT ON COMMUNITY

Woodgate is an unincorporated community located in ONEIDA County. The community is administered politically by none known. Police protection is provided by the Remsen State Police. Fire protection is provided by the Woodgate Fire Department. The community is comprised of retirees, commuters, self-employed and those who commute to work at nearby communities and may work in local businesses.

Businesses and organizations include: Church, Adironsacks, Adirondack Grocery, Adirondack White Lake Association, Back to Basics Dog Kennels, Bear Creek Carpentry, Boy Scouts of America (Camp Russell), Creekside Gift and Antiques, Camp Turk, Camp Nazareth, Countryside Vet Clinic, Family Solutions, Gary Ramsey Guide Service, Jerry's Small Engine Repairs, KevAnne's Coffee and Gift Shop, Kratzenberg's Masonary, Kratzenberg's Stucco, Lake and Country Construction, Little Long Lake Campers Assoc, Lou's Electrical and Plumbing, Mattson's Produce and Cabins, Natur's Treasures, No Two Alike, North Country Cabins, North Country Communications, North country Scooters, Quilted in the Woods, P&J Construction, Season's Cafe and Cabins, Stumble Inn, Thendara Automotive, UpNorth Bait, Upstate Power Washing, Walker Consulting, White Lake Inn, White Lake Antiques, White Lake Lodges, White Lake Fish and Game Club, White Lake Polaris, White Lake Creations, Woodgate Storage, Woodgate International, Woodgate Volunteer Fire Department, Woodgate Library. Residents may travel to nearby communities for other supplies and services.

Nonpostal services provided at the Woodgate Post Office will be available at the Forestport Post Office. Government forms

normally provided by the Post Office will also be available at the Forestport Post Office or by contacting your local government agency.

The following nonpostal concerns were expressed from questionnaires, the community meeting, on the petition, and on the congressional inquiry:

1. **Concern:** Customer expressed a concern about the library sharing the water well and supply with the post office and therefore closure would require a new well.  
**Response:** Per the lease agreement, this is the responsibility of the lessor.
2. **Concern:** Customer expressed a concern about the loss of the community bulletin board at the Post Office.  
**Response:** Many retail outlets and grocery stores are now displaying a public bulletin board in which items can be posted for sale, and/or lost and found items can be posted, and a variety of other information.
3. **Concern:** Customer expressed a concern that the Fire Department leases the building to the Postal Service and in turn uses the lease money to purchase new equipment.  
**Response:** If a final decision is made to close the post office we will abide by the terms of the lease.
4. **Concern:** Customer submitted a map for the official record.  
**Response:** The map has been entered into the record.
5. **Concern:** Customers expressed concern for loss of community identity.  
**Response:** A community's identity derives from the interest and vitality of its residents and their use of its name. The Postal Service is helping to preserve community identity by continuing the use of the Community name and ZIP Code in addresses.
6. **Concern:** Customers felt the loss of a post office would have a detrimental effect on the business community.  
**Response:** Businesses generally require regular and effective postal services, and these will always be provided to the Woodgate Post Office community. There is no indication that the business community will be adversely affected. Questionnaire responses revealed that customers will continue to use local businesses if the post office is discontinued.
7. **Concern:** Customers questioned the economic savings of the proposed discontinuance.  
**Response:** Carrier service can be and, in this case, is more cost-effective than maintaining a postal facility and a postmaster position. The Postal Service estimates an annual savings with this change.
8. **Concern:** Customers were concerned about the loss of a gathering place and an information center.  
**Response:** Residents may continue to meet informally, socialize, and share information at the other businesses, churches and residences in town.
9. **Concern:** With the loss of income, from the lease to the fire department, the local taxpayers will have to make the difference to finance emergency services for the community.  
**Response:** If a final decision is made to close the post office we will abide by the terms of the lease.
10. **Concern:** Customer expressed a concern about nonpostal services.

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Response:

Nonpostal services provided at the Post Office will be available at the Forestport Post Office. Government forms normally provided by the Post Office will also be available at the Forestport Post Office or by contacting your local government agency.

11. Concern:

Customers were concerned about loss of employment in the community.

Response:

The postmaster position is vacant and there is no guarantee that any replacement postmaster would be from the community.

Based on the information obtained in the course of this discontinuance study, the Postal Service concludes this final determination will not adversely affect the community.

### III. EFFECT ON EMPLOYEES

The postmaster position became vacant when the postmaster retired on October 02, 2009. The noncareer postmaster relief (PMR) may be separated from the Postal Service. No other Postal Service employee will be adversely affected. Since the postmaster vacancy an OIC has been installed to operate the office.

### IV. ECONOMIC SAVINGS

The Postal Service estimates an annual savings of \$ 42,492 with a breakdown as follows:

Postmaster Salary (EAS-11, No COLA)	\$ 33,168
Fringe Benefits @ 33.5%	\$ 11,111
Annual Lease Costs	<u>+ \$ 13,200</u>
Total Annual Costs	\$ 57,479
Less Annual Cost of Replacement Service	<u>- \$ 14,987</u>
Total Annual Savings	<u>\$ 42,492</u>

### V. OTHER FACTORS

The Postal Service has identified no other factors for consideration.

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## VI. SUMMARY

This is the final determination to close the Woodgate, NY Post Office and provide delivery and retail services by rural route service under the administrative responsibility of the Forestport Post Office, located seven miles away.

The postmaster retired on October 02, 2009. If the office has a noncareer PMR(s), they may be separated from the Postal Service; however, attempts will be made to reassign the employee(s) to a nearby facility. No other employee(s) will be adversely affected. The workload has declined. Effective and regular service will continue to be provided by rural route service.

The Woodgate Post Office provided delivery and retail service to 126 PO Box or general delivery customers and 96 delivery route customers. The daily retail window transactions averaged 21. There are no permit mailers or postage meter customers.

There will no longer be a retail outlet in the community. However, delivery and retail services may be available from a rural or contract delivery carrier, which could alleviate the need to travel to a Post Office for service. The Postal Service will save an estimated \$42,492 annually. A disadvantage to some will be in meeting the rural or contract delivery carrier to transact business. However, it is not necessary to be present to conduct most Postal Service transactions with rural or contract delivery carrier.

Taking all available information into consideration, the Postal Service has determined that the advantages outweigh the disadvantages and this final determination is warranted.

## VII. NOTICES

- A. Support Materials. Copies of all materials upon which this final determination is based are available for public inspection at the Woodgate Post Office and Forestport Post Office during normal office hours.
- B. Appeal Rights. This final determination to close the Woodgate Post Office may be appealed by any person served by that office to the Postal Regulatory Commission at 901 New York Ave NW, Suite 200, Washington DC 20268-0001. Appeals must be received by the Commission within 30 days of the date this final determination is posted. If an appeal is filed, copies of appeal documents prepared by the Postal Regulatory Commission or the parties to the appeal will be made available for public inspection at Woodgate Post Office and Forestport Post Office during normal office hours.



\_\_\_\_\_  
Dean J Granholm  
Vice President of Delivery and Post Office Operations

08/22/2011

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



08/24/2011

OFFICER-IN-CHARGE/POSTMASTER  
Woodgate Post Office

SUBJECT: Letter of Instructions Regarding Posting of the Woodgate Post Office Final  
Determination Docket No. 1388180 - 13494

Please post in the lobby the enclosed final determination to close the Woodgate Post Office. The final determination must be posted in a prominent place from 08/24/2011 through close of business on 09/25/2011. It must be posted for at least 30 days and the first day does not count. Additionally, please take down the posted "Notice of Taking Proposal and Comments under Internal Consideration" and return to this office.

Round-date stamp the cover of the final determination on the date of posting and on the date of removal. Please send the final determination to me by close of business on 09/26/2011.

Additional copies of the final determination are enclosed. Provide them to customers upon request.

Also enclosed is the official record upon which this final determination is based. Customers may read it; however, they may not remove it from your office. When a customer requests a copy of the record, provide it upon payment of any fees prescribed in Administrative Support Manual. If you do not have photocopy equipment, take the customer's name, address and telephone number and contact the district for needed copies.

If there are any questions, please contact me at (518) 452-4085.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nadine Tremblay".

NADINE TREMBLAY  
POST OFFICE REVIEW COORDINATOR  
30 KARNER RD  
ALBANY, NY 12288-9992

Enclosures:  
Final Determination Official Record